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The Pleasaunt
Historie of Lazarillo de

*Tormes a Spaniarde, where
it is contained his mar-
ueilous deedes and life.*

With the straunge ad-
uentures happened to him
in the seruice of lun-
arie Masters.

Drawen out of Spanishe by Da-
uid Rowland of Anglesoy.

Accuerdo, Oluid.

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1586.



3 1 2 1 9 5 3 H T
To the right wor-
shipfull Sir Thomas
Gressham Knight

WHEN I had read over
this litle treatise (right
worshipful,) finding it
for the nūber of strāge
and mery reports, very
recreative & pleasant, I thought it no
labor euill bestowed, to occupie my
seife in the translation thereof. And
being moued thereto the rather, per-
ceiuing that in Fraunce many deligh-
ted therein, being turned into their
tongue, I fully determined to bring
my former pretence to end: Conside-
ring that besides much mirth, here is
also a true discription of the nature &
disposition of sundrie Spaniards. So
that by reading hereof, such as haue
not trauielled Spaine, may as well dis-
cerne

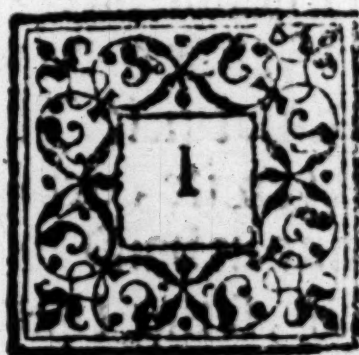
THE EPISTLE.

cerning much of the maners & customes
of that countrey, as those that haue
there long time continued. And being
now finished, I was so bold as to dedi-
cate the fruite of my simple labor vnto
your worship, who both for trauaile,
dallie conference with diuers nations,
and knowledge in al forein matters is
knownen to be such a one, as is well a-
ble to iudge, whether these reports of
litle Lazaro be true or not. Wherefore
I most humbly beseech your worship
fauorably to accept this poore present,
(as offered of one) who wisheth vnto
you and yours, all health, wealth, long
life, with increase of al vertue & vvor-
ship: Trusting that after your vvaigh-
tie and important affaires, to ease your
tedious exercises, you vwill recreate
your selfe vvith reading of some plea-
sant part hereof.

Your worships most humbly re-
commande, David Rowland.

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The Prologue of Lazaro de
Tormes, unto a Gentleman of
Spaine, which was desi-
rous to understand the
discourse of his life.



I Am of opinion, that
things so worthy of
memory, peradven-
ture neuer heard of
before, ne seene,
ought by all reason
to come abroad to the sight of ma-
ny, & not be buried in the endlesse
pit of obliuio, there perpetually to
be forgotten: for it is possible that
those, which shal reade this trea-
tise of my life, may finde some plea-
sure therein. Wherfore true it is by
Plinie recordeth, there is no booke so
euil, but hath some goodnesse in it co-
tained (considering all men tast not
a like,) that which one mā will not
eate, another longeth sore for: we
A iii. see

The Prologue.

see many vncleane things which o-
ther do greatly esteeme: Therefore
nothing ought to be broken & cast
away, vnles it were detestable, but
that first diuers men should see the
same, & especially being not hurt-
ful, but rather able, in steade of da-
mage, to yeld profite & vtilitie. If
the worlde were otherwise, very
fewe would take penne in hand to
please one man only, seeing that
they can not bring their workes to
ende without great trauell: And
when they haue ended their labor,
they rightfully desire to be recom-
penced, & not with money, but only
that all men with curteous minde
will read and allow their workes,
(yea & if there be cause why) giue
them praise. For to this ende Tullie
saith, Honor doth mainteine art or cū-
ning. Do you thinke that the soul-
dier that first mounteth on the wall
with his ladder, is beery of hisli e-

The Prologue.

No surely, the Desire of honour encourageth him, so to venture into such Danger. So likewise in Arte and learning, we vse to say, master Doctor hath preached wel, he is a man that seeketh & health of souls: but I pray you Demānd of him whether he wilbe offēded, that one shal say, O how diuinely you haue preached master Doctor. The like happeneth in mē of armes, as men commonly report, O how such a knight iustled noughtly, and notwithstanding he hath giuē his coate armor to a Jester which commended him for running well, what would hee haue giuē, if he had said the truth. Wherefore now we that all thinges passe after such a sort, I confessing my selfe to bee no holier than my neighbours, am content that such as finde any taste in this my grosse Stile and noueltie, may pleasure and Delight themselves therewith.

The Prologue.

and they may perceiue how a man
liueth, after so many fortunes,
daungers, and aduersities.

Therefore now I beseech your wor
ship, receiue with willing hart this
poeze token of my true affection,
which shuld haue bene much richer
if power & abilitie had bene equall
with desire. And seeing that you
haue commaunded me to write the
matter at length, I haue thought
good not to begin the midst of my
life, but first to tel you of my birth,
that al mē may haue full knowledge
of my person, that those which pos
sesse great rents & reuenues, may
vnderstand what small praise is due
vnto the, seeing that Fortune hath
dealt partially with the: and how
much commendation they deserue,
which in despite of cruell fortune,
with force & industrie, by rowing
out of tempestuous seas, haue
arriued to fortunate and
happie harbours.

Lazaro declareth his life, and
whose sonne he was.



Our woꝛship shal vnder-
stande before all things,
that my name is Lazaro
de Tormes, son of *Thome*
Gonsales and *Antona Petes*
natiue of *Tessieres*, a vil-
lage neer *Salamanka*. I was boꝛne with
in the riuer called *Tormes*, wherof I toke
my surname, as hereafter you shal heares
my father whome God pardon, had the
charge of a Mill standing vpon that Ri-
uer wherein he supplied the roome of a
Millner about 15. yeeres. It fortunèd on a
night my mother bring gret with childe,
was there brought to bed, and then was
I boꝛne: therefore now I may truly re-
port the Riuer it selfe to be the place of
my natiuitie: & after the time I came to
the age of eight yeares, there was layde
to my fathers charge that he had shame-
fully cut the seames of mens sacks that
came thither to grind, wherfore he was
taken and imprisoned, and being tormen-
ted

The Spaniardes life.

ted he cōfessed the whole matter, denying nothing wherefore he was persecuted. I trust in God that he is now in paradise, seeing that the Gospel doth say, that blessed are such as cōfesse their faults. About y same time an army was made against the Turkes, & my father being then banished for the mishap aforesaid, chanced to be one supplying the rōume of a Auditor, vnder a knight which went thither, in whose seruice like a true and a faithful man, he ended his life. My mother being then a comfortlesse widow, after the losse of hir deare husband, determined to inhabit among such as were vertuous & honest, to be of that number, and therefore came immediately to this noble Citie, where after that shee had hired a little house, shee kept an ordinarie table for diuers Students, and washed theyr feet for a company of housekeepers, belonging to the Commander of Magdalona, by meanes whereof she had occasion to make often resort vnto the stables, where in continuance of time, a black Moorish, one of master Commanders men, became to be familiarly acquainted with hir: So that

The Spaniardes life.

for his part hee would oftentimes arrive
at midnight to our house, and returne a-
gaine betimes in y morning, otherwhiles
at noontide, demanding at the doze, whe-
ther my mother had egges to sell, and so
come in pretely without suspicion: At
the beginning I was right soxe to see
him make repace thither, being afraide to
behold his black vncomly visage: but af-
ter that I once perceiued how only by his
resort our fare was so well amended, I
could by no means finde in my heart to
hate him, but rather beare him good will,
reioycing to see him: for hee alwayes
brought vs home with him good rounde
cankels of breade, and pieces of broken
meate, and in the Winter time wood to
warme vs withall. To bee short, by his
continuall repaire thither, matters went
so forthwarde, that my mother founde good
time to bring forth a yong moxen, whom
I daily playde withall, and sometimes
helped to warme. And I remember very
well, that on a tunc as my Stepfather
played merily with his yong sonne, the
little childe perceiuing that my mother
and I were whyte, and his father
black

The Spaniardes life.

blacke as yeat, he ran away for feare to my mother, and stretching forth his finger, cried Mamma & bugge: Whereat my blacke stepfather would laugh, and say, a who: son, art thou afrayde of thy father? Although I was then but yong, I right wel marked the childe words, and said to my self, ther are many such in the world, which do abhor and flee from others because they cannot see what shape they haue themselves. Within a while after, it pleased fortune that the daily cōuersation of Aide (for so was my fathers name) came to the eares of him that was Stewarde to master Commander, who made suthstreight inquirie, that he was aduertised how the black mozen did vse to steale halfe the prouander that was allowed & horses, yea, horsecouerings, shetes and curry combes, other whiles wood, & bzan: which things in deepe he alwayes said were lost, & when nothing could bee gotten to serue his turne, he would neuer sticke to vnshoe the horses, to get some gaine, presenting daily all such giftes to my mother, as a help to bring vp my litle blacke brother. Let vs neuer therefore
mar-

AH was fith
that came to
the nette

The Spaniards life.

maruell more at those which steale from
the poore, no: yet at them which conuey
from the houses they serue, to presents
therewith whome they loue, in hope to
attayne thereby their desired pleasure,
seeing that loue was able to encourage
this poore bondman or slaue to doe thus
much as I haue saide, or rather more,
which by euident triall was afterwards
prooued true: for I being examined of the
deede, after much thzetting was constrain-
ed as archiloe, for feare, to discover the
whole matter, confessing howe I had
solde certaine horses to a smith at
my mothers comandement: wherefore my
miserable stepfather was by iudgement
of the law, as the order is there, whipped
and larded; and to my mother expresse
comandement was giuen vpon the vsual
paine of a hundred stripes, no more to
enter into the house of the aboue named
Commauder, no: yet entertaine into hirs
the vnfortunate Zaide. My sorrowfull
mother fearing to throwe the helue after
the hatchet, determined by all meanes
to keepe their commaundement, where-
fore shee entred into seruice with those
which

There is an
order in that
country, when
any More doth
committe any
heinous offence
to strip him na-
ked and being
bound with
his hands and
his knees to-
gether, to bast
him with hote
droppes of bur-
ning Lard.

The Spaniardes life.

There is no
prouision there
in Innes: for
the guesles
must sende a-
brode into the
countrie for all
such vittell as
they neede.

Which at that time dwelte at the ordina-
rie Anne called Soiona, so to escape dan-
ger & to auoyde the dangerous reports of
euill tongues, where shee suffered much
sorrowe, and there brought vp my blacke
brother, until he was able to run abroad,
and that I being a good stripling, coulde
go vp and down the town to prouide the
guesles of wine, and candels, and other
things necessaric. In this meane tyme,
there happened a blind man to come thi-
ther to lodge, who thinking me to be a fit
ma to leade him, desired my mother that
I might serue him, wherewith she being
right wel content, most earnestly prayed
him to be good master vnto me, because
I was an honest mans sonne, who in
maintaining the faith of Iesus Christ a-
gainst Turkes, died in the battell of Gel-
ues. & howe that she trusted in almightie
God I would proue as honest a man as
he: therefore in any wise that he would be
careful ouer me, being a fatherlesse child.
Let me alone then (and we red br) I will
not vie him as a seruante, but as a
sonne. When in happie time I began to
serue my olde and newe maister: And
after

The Spaniardes life.

after we had remained certaine dayes at
Salamanka, my blind master perceiuing
his goinge there to be but small, determi-
ned to departe thence: and a little before
our departure, I went to see my mother:
wher I sawe wher she was, we shed both
moste bitter teares, and she gaue mee her
blessing, saying, now my deare sonne
I shall see thee no more, therefore be a good
childe, I pray God be thy helpe, I doe
thanke the Lord I haue brought thee vp
well hitherto, and I haue nowe put thee
to a good master, from henceforth pro-
uide for thy selfe, seeing that I haue done
my part. I toke my leave and retour-
ned in haste to my master, which taried
for me ready to take his voyage. So we
departed out of Salamanka, and came on
our way as farr as the byrge, at the en-
trance wherof standeth a beast of Stone,
fashioned much like a bul: as soone as we
came nere it, my blind mā willed me to ap-
proche, saying Lazaro, put thine care to
this Bull, and thou shalt heare a terrible
noyse within it: as soone as he had said
I wode, I was ready like a foole to bowe
down my head, to do as he had comāded,
thinking

The Spaniardes life.

Thinking that his wordes had bene most true: but the traitterous blind man suspecting how neare it my head was, thrust forth his arme vpon a sodaine, with such force, that my sore head tolde such a blowe against the diuelish Bull, that for the space of thre dayes my head felte the paines of his hornes, wherfore he was right glad & saide: Consider nowe what thou art thou foolish calfe, thou must vnderstand, that the blind mans boy ought to knowe one trike more than the diuel himself. It seemed then immediately that I awaked out of simplicitie, wherein I had of long time slept (like a child,) & I said to my self, my blind master hath good reason, it is fa' time for me to open mine eyes, yea. & to promise & seeke mine owne advantage considering y I am alone without any be'pe. We continued on our journey, & within felwe dayes I came to good knowledge, so he perceiuing what a ready tong I had, was right glad, & saide, neither gold nor siluer can I giue thee, howbeit, I doe meane to teach thee y way to liue, and so certainly he did: for next after God he made me a man, and although he was

The Spaniardes life.

was blinde, it was he that gaue me light
and that taught mee howe to knowe the
worlde. I reioyce to declare vnto your
worship these Childish toyces, that you
may see how commendable it is for a man
of low estate to bee brought to authoritie
and exalted, and contrariwise what a
shame it is, a man for dignitie and esti-
mation to bee pulled downe to wretched
miserie. But to retourne to my blinde
master, and to shew his nature, I assure
you that sith the beginning of the worlde
God neuer made man more deceitfull
and craftie: for in his art and trade of
liuing he far passed all other: he could re-
cite by hart a hundred long prayers and
more, yea, & the life of all the holy saints:
at his deuotion time he vsed such a loude
tunable voyce that it might be heard thro-
roughout the Church where hee prayed,
and besides all that, he could counterfet a
good deuoute countenance in praying,
without any strange gesture, either with
mouth or eye, as other blinde are accus-
tomed to vse. I am not able to recite a
thousand other manner of wayes which
hee had to get money: hee would make

The Spaiardes life.

many beleue that he had praiers for diuers good purposes, as for to make women bring forth children, yea, and to make men to loue their wiues, although they had hated the before neuer so much. He would prognosticate to women that were with childe, whether they should bring forth a Sonne or a daughter: in matters of Physicke, he would affirme that Galen neuer knew halfe so much as hee: also for any griefe, the tooth ach, or any other disease, there was neuer one complained, but that immediatly he would say, do this, doe that, seeth such an herbe, take such a roote: So that by this his continuall practise, he had daily great reioyce made vnto him, (especially of women) which did faithfully beleue all that euer he said: by them hee had great gaine, for he wane more in a moneth, then twety of his occupation did in a whole yeere. Yet for all his daily gaines, you must vnderstand that there was neuer man so wretched a niggarde. For hee caused mee not onely to die for hunger, but also to wante what so euer I needed. And therefore to confesse the troth, if I had not founde out meanes

The Spaniardes life.

meanes to helpe my selfe, I had bene hurried long silence. Therefore oftentimes I would so prevent him of all his craft, that my portion shoulde proue as good as his : and to bring my matter so to passe, I used wonderfull deceits (wherof I will recite vnto you some) although sometimes my practising of them did cost mee bitter paines. This blind man caried alwayes his bread and his vittell in a little bag of cloth, which was shutte at the mouthe with an Iron buckle, vnder a miserable locke and keye : at the time of putting his meate in, and taking it out, he would keepe such straight account, that all the world was not able to deceiue him of one crumme, and therefore there was no helpe, but that I must needs bee content with that small allowance that hee gaue mee, which alwayes I was sure to dispatch at two morsels: and as sone as ever he had shut his little lock, he wold thinke then that all were sure, imagining that I had other matters in hand : then would I boldly vnrip and solve vp againe the syde of his couetous sacke, vsing daily to launce one of the sides, there to take

The Spaiardes life.

out not onely bread at mine owne pleasure, but also slices of flesh, and swete carbonades: So that by such meannes I found conuenient time to ease the raging hunger which he was cause of. & so couer all the money that euer I could conuey & scale from him, I changed allwayes into halfe blanks, and when any man demanded any pzaier, he had allways of ordinarie a blanke giuen him for his hire, & because he could not see, it should be deliuered mee: but he could neuer so soone put forth his hand to receiue it, but I was as readie to throwe it into my mouth, and by quicke exchange to giue him the iust value of halfe of it, whercat he wolde much murmure, knowing by the onely feeling of it what it was, and would say: Now in the diuels name chaſteth it that sithence thy coming to me, I receiue but halfe blankes, and before I had alwayes a whole blanke and sometimes two: I thinke surely that thy unluckinesse be cause thereof. From that time forwarde he thought good to shorten his prayers, cutting them off in the midst: wherefore he commanded me, that as soone as the almes

The Spaniardes life.

almes giuer had turned his back. I shold
plucke him by the cloake. When streight
wayes changing tune, he would begin to
crie with loude voice (as blindmen vse to
do) who will heare such a deuout prayer,
or else the life of some holie Sainct: At
dinner or supper time, hee had alwayes
before him a little pot full of wine, which
oftentimes I woulde laye hande on, and
after two or three kisses sende it him se-
cretely home againe: But that happie
time continued but a while, for I was
wont to leaue so little behinde mee, that
he might some espie the faulte, as in deede
immediatly hee did mistrust the whole
matter, wherefore hee began a newe or-
der, not to leaue his wine anye more at
random, but to auoyde danger, had al-
wayes his little pot fast by the eare, so to
be sure of his drinke. Yet notwithstan-
ding for all this, the Adamant stone had
neuer such vertue to drawe Iron to it,
as I had to sucke vp his wine with a
long reede which I had prepared for the
purpose: for as soone as the ende of my
reede had bene once in, I might well be-
sire him to fill the pot againe. Yet at the

Blind men
stand there in
Church porch
ready to
be hired for
money to re-
cite any prayer

The Spaniardes life.

laste the craftie blinde man chaunced to
feele mee , and being angrie, determined
to take an other way, to place his pot be-
tweene his legges , covering it still with
his hande , so to auoyd all former daun-
gers: when hee had so done, I being ac-
customed to drinke wyne , did long to
taste of it , and perceiuing that my reede
coule then no more pꝛeuaile at all, I de-
uisd an other kinde of fetchē, howe to
make a hole in the bottome of his wine
pot , and to stoppe the same with a little
soft ware , so that at dynner time ma-
king a shewe as I were readie to dye for
colde, I would creepe betweene the bynd
mans legges , to warme my selfe at his
small fire , by the heate whereof, the wax
being little in quantitie, woulde so melte
away, that the wyne woulde issue down
into my mouth freshely and frime. I be-
ing sure to gape upward so fast that one
droppe should neuer fall beside. So that
when my blinde master woulde taste of
his wine, hee shoulde neuer finde drop to
quēch his thirst, wherat he woulde much
maruell, cursing and swearing all manner
of othes, yea wishing the pot and all that
was

The Spaniardes life.

was within it at the duell, musing still how his wine should bee so consumed away. When straightwayes to excuse my selfe, I would say, I trust you will not mistrust mee gentle bucke, seeing that the pot came neuer out of your owne hands. Whereupon then to be well reformed of the truthe, he began to feele and to grope the pot ouer so often, that at last he found the spring, and at that time dissembled quietly the matter, as if hee had perceiued nothing. The next day I beganne agayne to prepare my selfe after my accustomed sorte to take my pleasure of his wine, being ignoraunt of the euill that should ensue, thinking that my maister would neuer haue mistrusted mee about such a matter, wherefore I was mery and carelesse. But my cruell master, perceiving after what straunge sort I receiued those sweete drops of wine, which came forth as a quicke spring at his pottes bottome, my face bent towards heauen, my eyes in manner closed, so to receiue with more delight and better taste, that pleasant licour which I thought did preserue my life, the malicious blynde

The Spaniardes life.

man hauing time of reuengement at his will, luted by the sweete and soure pot, (as I may saye,) and with all his force clapped it so rudely vpon my face, that I thought verily heauen aboue, and all therein, had fallen vpon mee. The cruell blowe was such that it tooke away my senses, it troubled sore my braines, and my face was all cut with pieces of the broken potte, yea, and some of my teeth were then broken, which as yet is seene, wherefore I neuer loued him after, howbeit he cherished me daily: yet for al the false loue and frendship which he shewed, I perceiued right well how glad hee was that he had so punished mee. To make me amendes, he washed with wine the woundes which the unhappie pot had made, & after much laughing, saide, what sayest thou to this my boy, the wyne that hath done the hurt shall now heale thee again, and such other merie iesses, which I vtterly mistaked. As soone as I began to recouer, and that my face was in manner healed, I considered with my selfe, howe that brish fellowe more such blowes, the blanke man might quickly bring mee to

The Spaniardes life.

my graue : And therefore determined to shorten his dayes if I coulde , which thing I went not about immediatly, but taried a due time for mine owne safetie and aduantage. And whereas afterwardes I went about to forget mine anger, and to forgieue him the blowe , the euill vsage and entertainment which hee daily shewed me, woulde in no wise consent thereto. For still hee tormented me with sore blowes without any offence or faulte at all . And when any man demanded why he handled me so cruelly, straight wayes he woulde vp and declare the discourse of his pot, saying, do you not thinke that this childe is some innocent, and alwayes at the ende of his tale these would be his words: who vnlesse it were the deuill him selfe could haue found out such rare pranks? The people woulde much maruell at my inuention, and blessing themselves, would say vnto my master: Punish him, Punish him, God will rewarde you therefore : which thing hee did continually, & would haue done without their bidding : wherefore I daily led him through the worst wayes I could find possibly,

The Spaniardes life.

He was borne
blinde.

possibly all for verie spite, minding if I could to doe him harme: where I might clippe stones or myze, I woulde euen throught the thickest: & although I could neuer escape bye foote, I was glad with losing one of mine owne eyes, to put out both his that neuer hadde any. At such times of his sorrowes to be reuenged, he woulde take helde with his nailes on the hinder parte of my heade, where with his often pulling, hee had lesse very fewe hairens behinde: it would neuer preuaile me then to say, that I could finde no better way, nor yet to sweare how I did not leade him that naughtie way maliciously for he was so subtil. that to my wordes he woulde giue small credite. But now because your worship shal vnderstand how farre his craftt did extende, I will declare one chaunce amongst many, which happened in the time I serued him. wher in he seemeth to giue full vnderstanding of his subtiltie: When wee departed out of Salamanka, his intente was to come to the Citie of Toledo, knowing that the people were richer there then in other places, although not so charitable, yet
for

The Spaniardes life.

fo; all that, leaning to his olde pro-
uerbe: More giueth the niggarde than
the naked, we toke our boyage throug
the best villages wee coulde finde, where
we found great gain and profit, continu-
ing after such sorte a certayne time: and
where as wee liked not our entertain-
ment, the thiro day we would be sure to
take our leaue and to ende our yeere. It
fortuned at the last, that we arrived to a
towne which is called Almorx, at such
time as they gathered their grapes, wher
one of y^e biniards gaue my master a whole
bunche, which by reason of the late time,
were more than ripe, so that some were
ready to fall from the bunch: wherfore he
could by no meanes carie it in his bagge,
by reason it was so moyst. Therefore he
determined to make a sumptuous ban-
ket with it, partely because hee hadde no
meanes to carie it with him, and partly
because hee thought therewith to please
me, which hadde receined that day many
cruell blowes. As soone as we founde a
balley fitte fo; the purpose, wee satte vs
downe, and my master said, Lazaro my
boy, I will nowe vse a great liberalitie
to,

The Spaniardes life.

sowards thee, it is my pleasure that both of vs shall eate friendly together this bunch of grapes, whereof thy part shall be as much as mine, we will part it after this sort, thou shalt take one grape and I an other, promising me faithfully that thou wilt not take aboue one at a time, and I will doe the like to thee, and so we will quietly ende our bunche, without any fraude or guile on either part. Upon that condition we agreed and began our bancket: but my master belike forgetting his promise, did some chaunge purpose, so immediately hee began to picke the grapes by two & two, thinking peradventure that I would do the like, as he might well thinke. In deede I was not farre behinde him, so as soon as I perceived that hee had broken the lawe, I was not content to goe by two and two as he did, but went before him, taking vp by two and thre together, and sometime more as I was best able. When the bunch was ended, he toke the stalks in his hand, and wagging his head said, Lazaro thou hast deceived me, by God thou hast eaten by thre and thre: I vtterly denied it,

and

The Spaniards life.

and saide, in deede vncke it is not true :
why should you thinke so ? Then he like
a craftie blindman answered , I did per-
ceiue straight wayes howe the matter
went , for when I began to take by by
two & two. thou neuer didst finde faulte-
but didst keepe silence. I then laughed to
my selfe , although I was but young , I
considered well his discrete considerati-
on. Now fir to auoide long talke , I will
leau apart many matters as well plea-
sant as woorthy to bee noted , which haue
fortuned to me with this my first master.
I will onely tell what hapned a litle be-
foze I departed : we came to Scalona, a
toluene of the Dukes, and when we were
at our lodging, hee gaue mee a piece of a
sausedge to rost , the which being almost
inough, and the fat dropped and pressed
out vpon thin slices of bread, as the fashi-
on is , and those being eaten , hee drerwe
his purse, and boldly drerwe out a Mare-
uedi, willing me to fetch the value therof
in wine. The deuill (who as they say) is
the occasion that men become thieues,
was ready at hand to prepare opportuni-
tie to deceiue him. It fortuneth that neare
the

Here they vse
fewe gridirōs
but all spits, &
do rost ouerth
wart the coles.
A mareuedi, is
the sixt part of
an English
peny.

The Spaniardes life.

the fire there lay a little roote, somewhat long and euill fauoured, suche a one as belike, was not seruicable for the potte, and therefore was lefte there as abiecte: and as at that time there was no more but hee and I alone, I felt my selfe pinched with a lixorious appetite, my teeth bearing set on edge with the sweete sauoure of his roasted sausege, the which was the onely witness that I shoulde bee the eater thereof) I not regarding what the Iaque'e might bee, leauing aside all manner of feare, for to fulfill my rash desire, in the meane while that the blinde man was drawing his purse, I whippes off quickly the sausedge from the spitte, and thereon broached the foresaide worine eaten roote. which my master most willingly tooke and beganne to tourne, thinking to roste that which for the goodnesse, was not worthy to bee boyled.

So I wente for wine, and by the way I made a faire ende of my sausedge, and as soone as I came in againe, I founde my master wringing betwene two slices of bread, y^e naughty roote, not knowing
ing

The Spaniards life.

ing what it was: for with his fingers he had not as yet touched it. Immediately after he began to eate, taking a large bit of his bread, meaning to haue tasted a little of his sausedge, but his teeth entred into the roote, where he found a colde morsell: whereat hee being sore abashed, shewed it to me, and said, Lazaro what meaneth this? I then answered: Howe Iesus what is this? Alas wretched that I am, doe you meane to blame me, you knowe well that I came but nowe from the tauerne with wine, surely some naughtie man hath bene here, that hath done this in despite or mockage. No no, then saide he, that cannot be possible, for I neuer let the spitte goe sithence out of mine owne handes. Then to cleare my selfe, I began to sweare all othes, that I was innocent of that vile exchange: but al was in vaine, for from the subtiltie of that ingratiuous blinde man, nothing could be kept hidde. Hee rose vpp and tooke faste holde on my heade, to smell whether hee coulde feele the sauoure of his sausedge: and as soone as euer hee felte occasion to suspecte that I had eaten it, he was as gladd as a
god

The Spaniardes life.

good blond hounde, that had his chafe in the winde : Wherefore to bee better enfourmed of the trueth, being sore indued with anger, he rashely opened my mouth with the strength of his handes, so that perforce I was fayne to gape euen to the vttermoste : and then hee thrusteth in all haste, into my mouth, his woꝛmeaten nose, which was both long and thꝛype, yea, which at that time by reason of great anger, was lengthned a long handfull, so that the pike thereof did gatt my throte. Wherefore, partely by reason of the feare that I was in, and partly because the sausedge in such thort time was not settled in my stomacke, but most of all, by reason of the greate trouble which his monstrous nose put mee to, wherewith I was in a manner choked, I was forced to discover my gluttonie, so that the sausedge of necessitie returned to his olde master againe : for my pooꝛe stomacke was so much altered, that befoꝛe the blynde man had drawen out his hoggish nose, I was euen ready to render vp the theft. For looke as soone as euer hee hadde pulled out his snoute, the

The Spaniardes life.

the euil eaten sausedge came gushing out
after, in honest companie. And mightie
God howe had beere then buried, might
well haue looked for my companie, for I
was altogether dead: his rage was then
so great, that if men had not come in, I
thinke certainly hee woulde haue taken
away my life. With muche a doe I got
me out of his handes, leaving him with
his clawes full of that small quantitie of
beere which I had lefte, (all which tor-
ment he most iustly deserued. seeing that
thorough his naughtinesse I suffered such
persecution.) The bngooly blinde man,
woulde then declare to as many as came
in, my vnfortunate disgraces, rehearsing
often ouer, as well the tale of his poore,
and of the bunch of grapes, as also this
last tricke of his sausedge. The laughter
that men made was so great, that as much
as were in the streate came in to see the
feaste, where he recited with such grace
all my misadventures, that mee thought
verily, I did them greates wrong in not
laughing for companie. When all this
was past, there came to my minde a cer-
taine faint and a slouthfull coward.

C

which

The Spaniardes life.

which I had committed, in not leaving him noselesse, seeing that I had time fit for the purpose: yea and that I had gone halfe the way to doe it. For if I had but closed my teeth together, his nose had neuer gone more abroad: & truely I beleue because it was the nose of that naughtie mā it would haue better agreed with my stomacke, than the sausedge did, for had it once bene inuisible, I mighte well haue denied it him againe. Nowe I would to God my teeth had done their parte, for it had bene better so then otherwise. The hostise, & other that were there, made vs friendes, and with the wine which I had brought for his supper, they washed my face, & my throte, which his nayles had al tozne. Wherat he made much grudging, saying, certainly this boy doeth consume mee more wine in a yere, with washing his woundes, than I do drinke in two. Without doubt Lazaro, thou arte more bounde to wine, than to thy father, for hee onely begot thee once, & it hath saued thy life a thousande times, and so declared howe many times hee had wounded mee and healed me againe with wine, & then
saide

The Spaniard's life.

said again: I promise thee truely Lazaro if any man in the world shal haue happy chaunce with wine, it is thou. Which wordes caused those that were there, to laughe heartily, I being still in moste sorrowfull dispaire. But loke what the blinde man prognosticated then, it was not all in vayne, for his sayings at y^e time proued afterwarde moste true: wherefore I haue oftentimes thence called to minde his wordes, whereby it appeared that he had a great gift in propheryng, and therefore it hath often repented me of my cruell dealing towards him, although his deserts were euill, seeing that his wordes of Prophecie proued so true, as hereafter your worship shall plainly vnderstande. To conclude, his euill nature and my blame considered, I determined to forsake him for euer, and as I imagined daily thereupon, desirous to departe, this his last deede perswaded me fully therunto, and the matter chaunced to fall out thus: Within two dayes after, wee wente through the Citie to demaunde mennes charities, where it had rained much the night before, & because

C y.

like

The Spaniards life.

like wise it rayned soze that day, my ma-
ster wente praying vnder certayne por-
tals & are there, where it wasdye. As he
might to appoych, the raine continuing
all the late on towe, Lazaro the raine is
without chole, for the more that nighte
edyn with out, the more earnest it is: let
vs draw toward to our lodging. But
as it chaunced, we had betwene vs and
home, a great wyde gutter which the
raine had made. Wherefore I said vnto
this gutter is very broode and sunste, so
that we shall haue muche a doo to passe,
notwithstanding. I haue now espied one
narrow place, where we may well leape
ouer thisfote; As I thought verily then,
that I had giuen him good and friendlye
counseil, and therefore said, my good boy,
nowe I perceiue thou arte wise, I must
needs loue thee therfore I pray thee leade
me to that narrow place, where I may
best escape: for nowe in winter it is not
good to take water, especially to goe wet-
flood. And how glad I was then to see the
thing which long before I had wished for,
wherefore without delay, I brought him
from underneath the portals, & leade him
right

The Spaniards life.

right against a great stone which
stood in the market place, and in
the middle of the best and most place of
all the garden. And now I will tell you
the story of the death of the son of the
great, that fell upon him, and also
because of his great desire to hear
concerning his death, for he thought
himself had some hundred his hundred
standing, to give him time of revenge
ment, he gave full credit to my words
and said, I will, let me see how
can I let you know how I will take my
leap, and I will leap that I will God
name, I will so, for when I had taught
him his place, I had said for as I could
and to the standing, to think the posse, as
one that had watched the encounter of
a Bull, and then I said to him, uncle leap
boldly as far as you can possibly, for else
you may chance wet your selfe. I had
not so soon said the word, but that inco-
ntinently the poor blinde man was ready
to take his race, returning a pace or two
backe from the standing, and so with
great force took his leap, thinking for-
ward he would be a paces, that at the

The Spaniard's life.

last his head toke such a monstrous blow
against the cruel stonie pillar, that his
head sounded withall as it had bene a le-
ther bottell, whereupon he fell back with
his cloun pate, halfe dead : then gaue I
a leape and saide, howe nowe vnto, could
you smell the sausage so well, and not
the pillar I pray you : proue nowe a
little what you can doe. So I lefte him
there betwene the handes of many men
that came in all hast to helpe him, & toke
my ready waye straight towards the
fortune gate, with no slow pace, and then
trotted so fast forward, that before night

I arined to Tortois. After that time

I neuer understode, nor yet ned

sought to knowe what

God almightie did

with him.

(.)

Howe



The Spaniardes life.
How Lazaro placed him selfe,
*With a Priest, and what thing hap-
pened to him in his seruice.*

TH E next day after doub-
ting of mine owne safetie
there. I departed thence and
went to a village which is
called Mekeda, where I met
for my sinnes, with a priest, who as soon
as he espied how that I demaunded al-
mes, did enquire whether I could helpe
to masse: I answered, saying, yea sir,
that I can, as truth it was: for although
the blindman had vsed me scarce well, he
taught me to do a thousand seates, wher-
of this was one. The Priest received
me for his owne: so I escaped then from
the thunder and came into the tempest,
yea and God knoweth, howe from euill,
to ten times worse, for the blynde man
was in comparison of this master, a
great Alexander. Howbeit, hee was so
couctous & nigarde, as heretofore I
haue rehearsed. All the miserie in the
C. iij. world.

The Spaniardes life.

In the town enclosed within this walled
free priest, so he had alwaies a great old
coffe. In which he continually locked with
a keye which did hang at the point of his
coate, all the breade that came from the
Church at offerings, forgetting at no
time to turne the same unlocked, being
with shelye noche and buttrie. For
about all the house a man might discern
nothing that coulde bee eaten, neither
any thing in the chimney, nor Chieses
about upon shelves, nor y^e broken bread
in anye corner as commonly in other
houses one should finde. which things so
what I might see he seen & not tasted,
the which was a little comforted me much.
At the prison of the house, was a rope of
cords, in a little Chaire, kept also under
a little rock and keye. In all the house was
any y^e in a little Chaire. Every foure dayes.
And when I shoulde come for the keye to
take my due, if there were any draunger
by, he would shut his hand in his bo-
some, & with him he would be. He say,
saith he, keye, lett be immediately deliue-
red me againe, then doeth nothing but
cramme up meate. So that he that had
heard

The Spaniardes life.

heard him, would haue iudged there had bene vnder the custodie of that key, al the confectures of Valentia. But for any thing that was there, beside the rope of Daton & hong on a naile, the deuill him selfe might haue had parte, and of them hee kept such straight account, that if I hadde taken at any time more then my ordinarie, I should dearely haue bought it. After that I had continued a while with him. I was ready eury houre to fall downe dead for hunger. His ale was, to dine & sup with as muche flesh as mounted to the value of three blankes, wherof I was sure neuer to taste. vnlesse it were of the broth, which sometimes hee would friendly parte betwene vs, and so for bread, I would to god I might haue had halfe as muche as was sufficient. Upon Waterdayes, as the custome was in that cite, he would send me for a shepes head that should cost three Marcuedies, wherof when it was sod, hee would eate both the eyes, the tongue, and the brayne, and al the flesh on both the cheeke bones. When reaching mee the platter, with a few naked bones, would say, take down this

A blanke the xii. part of an English pence. The custome is there vpon Saturday to cate the heads, the feete and bowels of all beastes with his licence.

Two blankes a Marcuedi.

The Spaniardes life.

this to thee, and reioyce, seeing that thou hast the world at will, I am sure the Pope him selfe hath no better life than thou hast: the would I answer him, with lowe voyce. God sende thee alwayes the like. I had not dwelte with him thre weekes, but I was so leane & my legges were scarce able to beare me: the hunger was so greate which I sustained, that I neuer thought to escape death, vnlesse that Gods helpe and mine owne industrie would finde some remedy to saue my life. And for to vse my accustomed subtiltie, there was not wherewithal, seeing that there was nothing there to giue assault vnto: yea although there had bene, I might neuer haue bene able to deceiue him, as I had done the poore blinde man, vpon whom I pray God take mercy if hee bee dead with his last blowe. For howbeit he was craftie, yet wanting his precious sight, I was sure hee could neuer see what I boorely did. But there was neuer man that hadde quicker eyesight than this Idiot: For at offering time, the silver was not so soone falne into the basen, but that straight hee had it registred,

The Spaiardes life.

registred, hauing alwayes one eye to my hand, & an other to y^e people: and his eyes woulde so roll in his head, as if they had beene of quickesiluer. As soone as offering was done he would take the basen out of my hands, and lay it vpon the altar, so that I was neuer able to deceiue him of one blanke. And whiles I continued with him, (or to say better,) whiles that I consumed my selfe in this miserable seruice, he neuer sent me to the taucerne, for as much as the value of a blanke in wine, but that small quantitie which hee had offered on the Sunday, hee kepte alwayes in his coffer so sparingly, that it woulde last him al the week ouer. And for to hide his couetousnesse, he would sometimes say vnto mee, my boy, all Priests ought to be sober in eating and drinking & therfore I dare not break order as many other do, Now you shal see how y^e miser lieth falsly therein, for at burials & dirges, where hee had meate at other mens charges, he woulde eat like a wolfe, more thā foure me, & drinke as it were a Saluter: and because his office was alwayes to say dirge, at such times (god forgiue me)

I was

A Saluter is a kinde of drunken prophets in Spaine which take vpon the the healing of mad dogges,

The Spaniardes life.

Lazaro had
not cared
though the
king had died,
so that hee
might haue
had meate to
stay his hunger.

was alwayes an enemy to humane nature, and cruelly, because that then we should fare well, and haue meate at libertye, I wished and prayed God that he would euerie day call by one to heauen. When we went to minister the sacrament to such as were sicke; my matter would desire those that were there, to pray for the sicke man, for I was neuer one of the last that pined: desiring God with al my hart, not that he would doe to the patient according to his will, (as other prayed) but that he would dispatch him out of the world: and when any of them escaped death, I was ready (God forgive me) to wish him at the deuil, and who so euer died, was sure to haue of me many blessings, and prayers for his soule. I dwelt with this matter about six moneths, and in that time there died on'y persons, which I certainly knew to: at the least, the earnest request of my praye was cause of their death: so God the father perceiving the raging hunger which I continually sustained, reuised (as I thinke) to stay them, to save my life thereby, considering that
other.

The Spaniards life.

otherwise my disease could not be remedied, for I was neuer at ease, but when
my paine was curial: The day that there
was none, my teeth should haue no work
my heart would faint, because that I had
beene used sometimes to haue my belly
filled. At such times I founde ease in
nothing but in death, which then I wi-
shed, as well for my selfe, as I had done
before for the sick men. I determined
sometimes to departe from that mis-
erable matter, yet fearing so to do, for two
causes, first, because I durst not truste
my legs, which by hunger were brought
to great weakenesse, secondly, conside-
ring with my selfe, saying, I haue had
two masters, with the first I died for hun-
ger, whom when I had forsaken I chan-
ged vpon this other, which with the very
same disease hath almost brought me to
my graue: therfore I made account that
if I should forsake the second & meet with
a thirde that were worse then these two,
then there were no remedie but plains
death. Wherefore I neuer durst depart
from him, being assured to finde all co-
nditions worse and worse, knowing that to
descend

The Spaniards life.

Lazaro was a
good Christian
believing that
all goodnesse
came from God.

descend an other degree, Lazaro should be
soon forgotten, being once rid out of this
world. And being in such affliction (God of
his grace deliver every faithfull Chri-
stian from the like) not knowing how to
counsel my selfe, my misery dayly increa-
sing, upon a day, when by chaunce my
wretched master had gone abroad, there
arrived by chace to y^e doze a tinker, which
I beleue was an Angel disguised, sente
from God, who demaunded for worke: I
answered softly, thou haste inough to as-
me in me, and I beleue more than thou
canst doe. But as it was no time then to
delay the matter, (by diuine inspiration)
I saide vnto him, vncle, I haue losse the
key of this coffer, I feare y^e my master
wil beate mee, for gods sake looke amongst
your keyes if there be any that will open
it, I wil consider your paines: the beaue-
ly tinker began to assay, nowe one key,
now another, of this great bunch, and I
helped him with my prayers, so that im-
mediatly befoze I was aware, he opened
it: whereof I was so gladde, that mee
thought I did see in figure, (as they say)
the face of God, when I beheld the bread
with

The Spaniardes life.

Within it: and whē he had done all, I said
vnto him, I haue no money, but take this
for thy payment, so he tooke one of the fai-
rest lones, and after he had deliuered mee
the key, hee departed right well pleased,
and I as well content as he. At that time
I touched nothing, partly because I per-
ceined my selfe to bee the Lorde of suche
treasure, that by reason of that keye hun-
ger durst neuer againe approach me. In-
continently after, who comineth in, but
my vnhappy master, and as God would,
he neuer tooke heed of the loafe, which the
heauenly tinker had borrowed. The next
day after, as soone as he went abroade, I
began to open my paradise of bread, and
what betweene my hands and my teeth,
with the twinkling of an eye I made a
loafe inuisible, forgetting in no wise to
lock the chest againe: the I began cheere-
fully to sweepe the house, iudging y^e by
such remedy I might ease my sorrowfull
life. So I passed that day and the nexte,
with much mirth. But my contrary
Fortune wente aboute to hinder mee
to enioye suche pleasure long, for the
thyrde daye iuste, a tertian ague came
vpon

The Spaniardes life.

Upon mee, in perceiuing him that had
slayne mee with hunger, at an vndue
houre, ouer the chest, turning & tolling,
accounting and reckoning his bzeade.

I dissembled the matter, as I had not
perceined him, and in my secret prayer
and deuotion, I prayed saint John to
blinde him. And after that he had bene a
good while casting his accuimpte vppon
his fingers, he said vnto me, if it were not
that this coffer is so sure, I would say that
some of my bzead hath bene taken away,
but from henceforth I will keepe good
accounte of it, there is nowe left nyne
lones besides a broken piece: then said I
with lowe voyce, nine euils God sende
vnto thee, It seemed vnto mee with that
which he had said, my hart to be pierced
thzough with an arrowe, and my sto-
macke began to rive for hunger, percei-
uing how I was put to my former diet.
He then departed out, and I opened the
saide coffer to comforte my selfe a little,
and beholding the bzead, which I durste
not touch, but wo:shipping it, I behelde
& counted it ouer, to see if the wretch had
ouerreckoned him selfe: but I founde his
account

The Spaniards life.

account more iuste, that I woulde haue wished it by the one halfe: the most that I could doe, was to giue it a thousand kisses, and to cut a little del-cately of that place where it was cut befoze: and with that I passed ouer that day, yet not so merrily as I did the other. But now because two or three dayes befoze I had breade at will, the appetite in my stomacke did increase in such sorte, that I was almost dead for hunger: wherefore being alone, I did nothing but open and locke againe the coffer, beholding alwayes that bread as a God. And God himself which succoureth those that are afflicted, seeing me in such necessitie, brought a little remedie vnto my memorie, which was, that I remembered with my selfe this coffer to be olde and broken in many places, and although the holes were little, yet might it bee thoughte that Mice had entred therein, to damage the breade. And to take out a whole loafe, the wretch wold some espie the fault: yet this may be better bozn withal: so the I began to claw the breade with my nailes, vpon a simple napkin that was there, taking

D

one

The Spaniardes life.

one loafe and leauing another, so that of euerie third or fourth, I would be sure to take some crūmes, & euen as if they were confects I did swallow the same, to comforte my stomacke. When hee shoulde come to dinner, opening his chesse, and espying incontinently the hurte, he did iudge that rats had done that spoile, for I had so counterfeited their gnawing, that any man would haue thought the same: wherefoze hee sought all corners of the chest, and at the laste hee espied certaine holes where hee suspected they had entred: whereupon he called me in all haste, saying, Lazaro, see here what persecuti- on hath beene done this night vpon our breade. I began to maruell, demanding what it should be: what should it be said he but rats, which leaue nothing wholes we wet then to dinner, & as God wold I had better allowance then I was wont, for with his knife he pared away all that which hee thought the mice had touched, saying, take eate this my boy, Mice are cleane. I chanced y day to fare better, for he augmented my allowāce with y which I had made, by the trauel of my handes,

The Spaniardes life.

So to say truthe, of my nailes. We ended
our dinner for al that, somewhat to sone,
yet there came another plunge vpon me,
perceiuing howe the Priest was earnest
in pulling nailes out of the wall, and
seeking little bourdes to stop the holes a-
gaine: wherfore I said to my selfe (Lord
God) vnto howe many perils and cala-
mitie of Fortune are humaine crea-
tures subiect? how short a time doe the
pleasures of our troublesome life last: lo
where I am now, whiche trusted by
this my poore remedie, to ease my mi-
serie, being in beste hope of good aduen-
ture, my euill lucke would not consent,
but opened the sight of my couetous
maisters vnderstanding, causing him to
haue more subtile wit than he had giuen
him by nature, although such wretches
are commonly subtile enough. When he
had dunned vp the holes, I thought his
chest shoulde bee shutte to my comforte,
and opened to my paine, and therefore I
neuer left lamenting, vntill that the
curious Carpenter with his companie of
bourds had ended his worke of nayling,
and when he had done, said: now ye traie

The Spaniardes life.

forly **W**ice you must change purpose, for there is no more profite for you in this house. As soone as euer he went abroad, I went to view his worke, and I perceiued that he had not left in his olde chesse one hole vnstopped, not so much as a place for a flie to get in: notwithstanding without hope of gaine I opened the chest with my vnprofitable key, and there visited two loaues begon, which hee had thoughte the **W**ice had carued, and from them once againe I scraped a little quantitie, touching the lightly like a numble maister of defence, for necessitie at that time my mistresse, caused mee daye and night to imagine howe I might liue and seeke remedie for my soze, whereunto hunger taught me the way, which commonly maketh men haue ready wittes. I beganne then to studie aboute my affaires, seeking meanes to drawe some commodity out of the saide conetous coffer: perceiuing one night that my maister slept soundly (or at least made me belene so) by his snorting & blowing, I rose on my feete, and as I had taken order with my selfe the daye before what shoulde be done

The Spaniardes life.

Done that night, I had left an olde knife which was caste aboute the house, in a place where it might be founde at need, & went to that happie coffer: and where it seemed to haue least defence, I gaue the assault with my rustie knife, which seru'd my tourne wel for a wimble: but the chest by reason of good yeres, being weake, without strength, very softe and tender, did straight wayes render & consent that I should make for my commoditie a good hole in the side of it, and that done, opening the wounded chest, and knowing euerye loafe scuerally by the touch, I did as I had done before, and by that meanes being somewhat comforted, hauing locked the chest againe. I returned to my pallet, wherupō I slept little (& as I thinke) mine euill supper was cause of that, for other wise, at that time of the night the king of France his cares could neuer breake me of my sleape. On the morning the Priest my master perceiving the hurte which was done as well to the breade as to the coffer, began to curse the Dice, saying, what meaneth this: there was neuer House wont to go

D iij.

here

The Spanirdes life,

here befoze now, and certainly his wordes
were true, for if any house in the whole
kingdome might be priuiledged fro Mice
it might be his, for Mice are neuer wont
to dwell where no parings of meate doe
fall. But now he began againe to seeke
nailes about the ways, and little bourds,
to make defence against the traitorous
Mice: but as soone as night came that
he went to his rest. I rose vp with my
toolles, and looked what he stopped in the
day time, I broke vp againe in the night:
finally, the one and the other of us took
such paine, that this proverbe was fulfilled,
whē one doore is shut the other openeth:
at y last, wee seemed to haue Penelopes
web in hande, what so euer hee wrought
in the day, I vndid again in the night, in
so much y we brought the poore coffer to
such estate, y who so euer would properly
talke of it, might compare it to an olde
boate or brigatin, for that number of olde
nayles that was driuen into eche side of
it, whē he saw his remedy preuailed not
he saide, this coffer is so olde & so weake,
that it is no longer able to defende our
vittalles from vermine, it is now at
that

The Spaniardes life.

that point y if I meddle any moze with it, then oze it will decay, and so at length be able to do vs no seruice at all, and peraduenture euill fortune will cause mee spende two or thre shillings to buy an other : the best remedie that I can finde, seing this doth not preuaile, is to set by a trappe within it, to take these cruell rats: wherupon he went in mediately and bozowed one of his neighbours, which he had continually bent within the coffe, with a baite of cheese paring, which was laide onely for my comforte and ease, for although I coulde well haue eaten my bread alone, without y help of any thing else, to cause my appetite, yet the cheese paring which I would pull out of the trappe, gaue me trimme taste with my mouse eaten bread. But when he should perceine the bread so spoyled with rats, and the cheese eaten, and the rat that did the deede not taken, then would he with the trap at the deuill, demaunding of his neighbours what it might bee, that the cheese should be eaten, and the Rat not taken, yea and the trap fallen: the neighbours would answere that it was no rat

D iij.

that

The Spaiardes life.

akes are
out there to
out much in
mens hou-
s for loode.

that did that harme, for at one time or
other she had beene taken. And amongst
the rest one saide, I doe remember that a
snake was wonte to haunte your house,
and by all reason it is shee that hath done
the deede, for shee being long, mighte
easily eate the cheese, and although the
trap did fall, yet because hir bodye entred
not in all, she might well and easily get
out and scape. This neighbours saying
did satisfie the whole companie, and espe-
cially my maister, which from that time
forwarde neuer slept one night sounde-
ly, for when he had hearde the least noise
amongest the wroo, hee woulde thinke
that it were the Snake gnawing the
coffer, wherefore he woulde straight be vp
with a cudgell, which thence he entred
into such suspitions, was always ready at
his beds head, wherewith he woulde beate
the poore coffer so hard, to feare the
Snake, that hee waked all the neighbours
with the noyse. And as for mee, I neuer
slept, for often times in the night he wold
turne me and my pallet ouer and ouer,
thinking that the Snake had gottē thither
into my bed or into my apparrell. for hee
was

The Spaniardes life.

was informed, that those brasties oftentimes seeking heate, haue come into childrens Cradles, & bitten them to death. I would alwayes make as though I slept: then hee would in the morning say vnto mee O Lazaro, haue thou heard no noyle this night. I did pursue the Snake, and I was afraid: & had gotten into thy bed, for they are colde, & therefore seke heate. When answered I, I pray God she hath not bitten me. I feare Snakes as the reuill. He continued in such fearefull fantasies, that he neuer slept, so that I being the Snake, durst neuer approche the colfer, but onely in the day time, whyles hee was at Church, or abroad in the towne, then woulde I make my assault: whereof when he had knowledge, perceiving that he was not able to finde any further remedie, would euery night (as I haue told you) be raging mad. All that I feared then was, that he with his diligence woulde meete with my priue key which I had hidde vnder the bedstrawe: But for more suretie, at night time I woulde a waies keepe it in my mouth, & when that I dwelt with the blinde

The Spaniardes life.

blynd man, I had brought my mouth to
such vse by conueying money into it, that
it serued me oftē for a purpose. I can wel
remember, when sometimes I haue had
in it. xij. or xv. deniers, and not hindred
my eating, otherwise I had neuer bene
maister of denier, but that the cursed
blinde man woulde haue founde it out,
not leauing one seame or wrinkle of my
coate vnought. Wherefore as I tel you,
I did euery nighte put the keye in my
mouth for a safegarde, & by that meanes
I slepte soundly, not fearing that he
shoulde finde it. Notwithstanding, when
that the euill houre could not be escaped,
my diligence was all but vaine: it plea-
sed my fatall destenie (or to say truth) my
sinnes, that vpon a night when I was a-
sleepe, the keye happened so to tourne in
my mouth, being wide open, in such sort,
that my breath comming forth through
the hole of the keye, which was hollowe,
made such loude whistling (as euill for-
tune woulde) that my carefull maister
hearde it, who thought certainly that it
had bene the hissing of the Snake, (as
surely it might be like) hee rose vp very
softly,

The Spaniardes life.

softly holding his cudgell fast, and by the
noyse of the hissing came by little and
litle streight to me, without making any
noyse, to the intent the Snake should not
heare him. When hee was neere me, hee
thought certainly that the Snake was
there in the strawe, wherfore he lifted up
his cudgell to kill her, and with all his
strength hee discharged vpon my heade
such a cruell blowe, that he wounded me
to death. Whereupon, he knowing that
he had stricken me, belike by the groning
that I made after the receipt of the blow,
suspecting what had hapned, cried out to
awake me, but as soone as he touched me
with his handes, hee felte abundance of
bloud issue out of my heade: wherfore
considering what hurt he had done mee,
hee wente in haste for a candle, and re-
tourning with it in his hande, found me
groning & gasping with my keye in my
mouth, which I neuer let goe, beeing
halfe out, euen as it was when it made
suche hissing, whereat the killer of
Snakes maruelled, especially when hee
behelde the keye, which hee tooke out of
my mouth, and beewing it, hee percei-
ued

The Spaniardes life.

ned what it was, for in woꝝkemanſhip it differeth nothing from his. But for moze ſuretie hee wente ſtreighte to proue it, and ſo then eſpied the whole diſceit. God knoweth then howe hee bragged, that hee had taken the Rat and the Snake that had made him ſuch warre, and that ſo deſtroyed his breade: what happened the thꝛee dayes following, I am not able to tel, for I was as it were in a whales bellic (but only this that I haue tolde you: which I had heard my maſter report, after that I was retourned to my ſelfe, for hee declared the whole matter to as many as came in and out. The third day after, I began to recover, marnelling much, when I perceiued my ſelfe beeing in my ſtraw, my head full of plaſters, oyles, and oymments, and being thereat amazed, I ſaid what meneth this: The prieſt then answered, the meaning of this is, that I had chaced away the Ratte and the Snake that haue done me ſuch hurt: then calling to minde my affaires, I ſuſpected my hurte, and the cauſe thereof: then came there in an olde woman, with certaine of the neighbours, to vndo the clouts

The Spaniardes life.

cloutes about my head, and to dresse my woundes, and being glad to see mee recovered,saide,there is no danger, now in him,seeing that he hath his senses, they began then to recite my afflictions, they laughing and I weeping. After all this, they gaue me meate, I being almost dead for hunger. Much a do they had to recover mee, but by little and little I waxed strong,& at .xv. dayes ende,I rose vp and was out of daunger,yet not without hunger,howbeit halfe healed.The next day after that I rose,my master toke me by the hande, and brought me out at the doore, and leauing me in the strate,saide vnto me: Lazaro, from this day forth, thou shalt be at thine owne libertie, and not vnder my subiection,the Lorde bee with thee;go seek thee a master, I haue no need of such a diligent seruant, it is not possible,but that thou hast bene seruaunt to some blinde man. And therewith blessing him selfe from me,as though I had bene possessed with some euill spirite, hee getteth him in and locketh fast his doore.

How

The Spaniardes life.
How Lazaro placeth him
selfe to serue a Squire, and
what happened to
him in his seruice.

In this meanes I was forced to helpe my selfe beeing weake, & shortly after, I came by helpe of good people, to this noble citie of *Toledo*, where (I thanke God) my wound closed vp. As long as I was sicke, euery man gaue me his charitie, but after that I was once whole, euery man would say, thou bacabond and lecherer, why dost thou not seek a master? Then I murmuring with my selfe, wold say, & where the deuill shall I finde him, vnlesse God, as hec made the world, make me one. But now I demanding almes from doze to doze for Gods sake, I found little remedy, for charitie had then ascended vp to heauen. At the last God caused me to meet with a squire which walked thorow the streete, in very sumptuous apparel, & cleanly, his pace in going wel measured after good order. He beheld

The Spaniardes life.

behelde me and I him, and he saide vnto me: boy, doest thou want a matter? I answered, I would faine haue a good maister sir. Then followe mee said he: God hath sent thee good fortune to meete with me, thou hast prayed well this daye, I thanke God, for that which I had heard him say, and for that he seemed by his behaviour and countenances to bee euen hee, that I had so much longed for. I met with this thirde maister betime in the morning, and hee led mee after him thorough the most parte of the citie: we passed through the market place, where there was sold bread, and other prouision: I looked when he would haue lodg'd me there with meate, for it was then, that euery man prouided and bought things necessarie for their dinner. But with comely and large pace hee went by, and left that place behind him: then I said to my selfe, peraduenture hee doeth not see here that which doeth contente him, hee will buy in an other place: we walked so long that the clocke strook eleuen, then went hee to the chiefe Church, and I after him, where I sawe him most deuoutly heare service

Gentlemen vnto buy their meate in the market themselves.

There is not such prouision of meate in Spaine as there is in England.

The Spaniardes life.

He wēt so late
to the Church
to tyme that
his dinner
might be
made ready.

service, when all was ended, & the people departed, he came out of the Church and marched leysurely downe a streete: and as for me, I went ioyfully, the best content in the worlde, perceiving howe that we did not stay to seeke our dinner, imagining that this my newe master had bene some great personage, and that hee had his house prepared before hande, that we should finde dinner ready, yea such as I desired, and as I had neede of. At that tyme the clocke stroke one after noone, when we arrived at a house before the which my master had stayd I with him, then hee shewing his cloake over his leaſe ſhoulder very ciuilly, drew out a key out of his ſleeue to open his doore, we then entred in, the entrance wherof was so darke and vnhandſome, that it might feare any man liuing to enter in, how be it, there was within it a pretty litle court and reasonable chambers: and when we were within, hee putteth off his cloake, demanding mee whether my handes were cleane, we ſhooke it, and then doubled it handſomely, and after he had blowne cleanly the duſt away from an olde bench

The Spaniardes life.

benche that was there, he layde it by :
that beeing done, he sat him downe, de-
manding of mee at large what countrey
man I was, & howe I came to the citie:
I gaue him a larger account than I was
willing: for I thought it a more conue-
nient time to commaunde mee to lay the
cloath, and to take out pottage, than to
make such inquirance: yet for all that,
brynging forth the beste lyce I coulde
frame for my selfe, I made him account
what I was, reckening all the good-
nesse that was in my personage, leauing
apart all that which I thought was not
to be rehearsed in that place: when I had
declared all he staied a while, and by that
time I did see an euill signe: for it was
almoste two a clocke, and yet he was no
readier to dine than he that had bene dead.
I maruelled moreouer, when I perceiued
that he had locked his doze with his key,
& that I could not heare any living crea-
ture stir, neither aboue, nor beneath: all
that euer I did see was the naked walls,
not so muche, as a chayze or tible, nor a
table, nor yet a coffer, as the other man
had: finally you would haue saide, it had

As the Priest
had.

The Spaniardes life.

bene a house, not inhabited. A while after he demanded mee whether I had dyed, I answered saying, no sir, for it was not eight a clocke when I met with your master ship this morning, (then saide he) as early as it was, I had broken my fast, and whensoever I brake my fast in the morning, I neuer ate againe untill it be night, therefore passe thou ouer the time as well as thou canst, and wee will make amendes at supper: your worship may well thinke that when I heard these wordes I was ready to fall downe dead, not so muche for hunger, as for playnely perceiuing, that then fortune was altogether mine ennemie. When began my sorowes to appeare vnto me againe, and I to lament my misfortune: then came there to my minde, the consideration that I made when I was aboute to departe from the Priest, weyghing with my selfe, that although hee was most wretched and miserable, yet peradventure I might meete with a worse: finally, I lamented and wept my troublesome life that was passe, and my death that did appoach: and yet for all this I dissembled the

Poore Lazero
did beare his
masters dinner
and his owne
in his bosom
for feare of
leefing it.

The Spaniardes life.

the matter as well as I coulde, and saide vnto him, sir I thanke God, I am a boy that doth not greatly care for eating and drinking, for I may well compare with any of my age for sobernes and measure in eating, and so haue I bene alwayes esteemed of as many maisters as I haue serued: he then answered saying, it is a vertue to liue soberly, therefore I commend thee much: Dogs fill them selues, and wyse men eat discretely what is onely sufficient for them. I nowe vnderstande you well sir, sayde I to my selfe, euill lucke light vppon suche vertue and goodnesse as these my maisters doe finde in hunger: immediatly after all this, I conueyed my selfe behind the doze, where I drew certaine peeces of breade out of my bosome, which were left of that I hadde receiued for Gods sake two dayes before. But he perceiuing mee, sayde, come hither boy, what doest thou eat: I came vnto him, and did shewe the bread, whereof hee tooke a peece, whiche of two or three was the beste and the biggest, saying, by my soule me thinks this bread is good and sauarouse: yea mary say, at

C y.

this

The Spaniardes life.

this time especially, sayde: I. As so in deed, said he, but where hadst thou it, was it moulded with cleane handes? that I know not said I, howbeit I find it good. I pray God it bee cleane, saide the poore Gentleman: and with that putting his hande to his mouth, deuoured quickly all that I had giuen him: and somewhat before we had ended, he said, by God this bread hath a good taste, howe sauerous it is. And as for me then, I perceiued vpon which foote he halted, I made hast to eat, perceiuing him to be so disposed, that if he had made an ende before mee, I thought he wold gently haue offered to helpe mee: therefore we ended both at one time in good order. He began then with his hand to bushe away a fewe crummes, which had falne vpon his breast, & after that entered into a chamber that was there, and thence broughte forth an olde pottle broken moutied, & dranke wel, & then he offered me the pottle. But I to seeme sober and modest, said sir I drinke no wine: it is water, said he, thou maist well drinke of it: then I tooke the pottle, but I dranke not much, for it was not thrust, but hun-

ger

In Spaine many
drink no-
thing but wa-
ter, and some
that may haue
wine; but this
I quite drinke it
for want of
better.

The Spaniards life.

ger that troubled me. We passed the time so vntill that it was nighte, reasoning of sundry matters which he demaunded of me, whercunto I answered as well as I could. Then we entred into the chamber from whence hee had brought forth the his drinking potte, hee saying: boy, go to the other side, and marke howe we make this bed, that thou maist knowe howe to make it from henceforth. I went to the one side and he to the other, and made the poore bed, which was an easie matter to doe, for it was thus as I will tell you: A sheepes hurdell layde ouerhwarde two tressles, a silly rotten harde matresse, and vppon that his bed clothes, which by reason of seldome washing coulde not be discerned in colour from the matresse, the which had not halfe so much wool as need required: we turned it to make it soft, but that was vnpossible to doe, for verie harde it is for a man to make a harde thing soft, and the dinell a thing was within the cruell matresse at all, for wher it was spreade vppon the hurdle of bigge stickes, euery stick appeared therin, and as like as could be, to the ribs of a carian

The Spaniardes life.

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In Spaine many drinke nothing but water, and some thinke they may haue wine; but this I quite drinke it for want of better.

The Spanlardes life.

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The S paiardes life.

The streetes
are narrowe &
darke, few lan-
ternes are hōg
out.

leane Hogge, we lyed vpon the hungry
miserable matris, a couerlet suteable to
the reste of the stuffe, what stuffe it was
off. I can not well deuise: befoze that we
hadde made the beddes it was night, and
he said: Lazaro, it is now late, and from
hence to the market place where proui-
sion of meate is solde, it is a long waye,
and besides that russians and theucs doe
meete men euery night to spoyle them
of their cloakes & caps in the darke, there-
foze let vs passe ouer this night as well
as we may, to morowe God will prouide
better for vs. I am not prouided of meate
because I haue bene hether to alone with-
out a seruauant, and I haue alwayes ta-
ken my meales in the Citie, but from
henceforth we will keepe a newe order:
sir said I, take no care for me, I can passe
ouer one night, & more if neede bee with-
out meate, & that will bee cause that thou
shalt liue longer said he, for as wise men
affirme, there is nothing that can make
a man liue longer than to eate a little. If
that be true said I to my selfe, I shall ne-
uer die, for I haue alwayes bene contrai-
ned to keepe that rule, and I thinke I
am

The Spaniards life.

am fortunèd to obserue it as long as I
liue. After all this hee went to bed, ma-
king his hose and his dubled his bolster,
and causing me to lye at his fete, where
I neuer slept winke, for the hard hurdle
neuer leste galling my naked bones,
which by hunger and sorowe together,
had not left on them nor yet on all my
body besides, an ounce of flesh: and as I
chaunced to eat nothing that daye, my
braine was so light, that I could neuer
take rest. Wherefore (God forgive mee)
I cursed my selfe and my fortune a thou-
sand times, and that which was worse
than all this, I neuer durst change sides
for feare of waking him: wherefore I
desired death. The next morning when
he rose, hee began to shake and to make
cleane his hose, his dublet, & his cloake, I
was his brushe, so he araide himselfe at
leisure: I gaue him then water for his
hands, & whē he had occupied his combe,
he taketh his sword & kisseth the pommel,
and as hee was putting it to his girdle,
saide vnto mee: My boy, if thou knowest
what a blade this is, y^e wouldest maruel,
there is no gold that can buy it of me, for

Hunger is al-
wayes an ene-
my to sleepe.

The Spaniards life.

of as many as Antonio made, he coulde neuer giue such temper to any as he gaue this: then drawing it out of the scabbarde he tasted y^e edge with his fingers, saying, seest thou it? I dare undertake to cut asunder with it a whole fleece of wooll: I answered him softly to my selfe, saying, and I with my teeth though they be not of such harde mettall a loafe of bread weighing iij. pound. Then he went the sword againe, hanging it at his girdle. and after all this he marched out into the streete, with a leasurely well measured pace, holding his bodye straight, making therewith and with his head a very good countenaunce, casting the ende of his cloake sometimes vpon his shoulder, & otherwhyles vnder his arme, with his right hand alwayes on his side, and as he was going forth said, Lazaro, looke well about the house, while I do go and heare seruice, make the bedde, and then fetch some water here at the riuer beneath, looke the more least any body rob vs, and lay the keye vnderneath y^e threshold, that I may come in: hee went by the streete with such comely gesture & countenance, that

The Spaniardes life.

that he that had not knowen him, would haue iudged him to haue bene nere kinsman vnto the high Constable of Spaine. or at the least his chiefe Chamberlein. I remained then alone, saying to my selfe, blessed art thou O God which sendest the sicknesse & giuest the remedy, who would thinke that should meete my Lord & master, with such gesture & countenance, but that hee had supped well yesternight, yea and that he had slept in a good bed: and although it be now early, who would thinke but that he had brokē his fast wel? Great are thy secret doings O lord, & all people are ignorant of them: might not his good dispositiō, his reasonable cloke and coate deceiue any man? who would distrust that such a noble Gentleman had eaten nothing all yesterday, but one piece of bread which his seruant Lazaro had kept in the chest of his bosom a day & a night, so that it could not be (to say y^e truth) very cleane? who would suspect that hee had dried this morning his face and his hands vpon the skirts of his coate for want of a towell? I am certain no mā would iudge it in him, O Lorde howe many are there
in

The Spaniardes life.

in the worlde, that are in such bꝛauery
as this my maister is in, which doe suffer
more for a little vaine glories sake, than
they would do for the loue of thee. I stode
in the doore so long remembꝛing all those
things, that my maister passed thorow a
long and narrow streete, then I went in,
and within a minute of an houre, I
visited the whole house aboue and be-
neat, without staying, or finding wherat
to stay. When I had made the unlucky
bedde, I took my pot and went streighte
to the Riuer, and being ready to take vp
my water, I might perceiue my maister
in a Garden ouer the water, in greate
talke with two comely women, whiche
by their countenaunce seemed to be some
of them, wherof in Toledo a number are
risely found: & many of them take an vse
of going abroad early in the morning in
Summer time, to take the ayze in those
Gardens, and to breake their faste with-
out prouision of their owne vnder trees
and shadowes, nere that pleasant Riuer,
trusting to finde out some that would
be to take charges vpon them, especially
such as they had accustomed thereto,
such

The Spaniardes life.

such lustie yung souldiers of the citie as delighted in such pastime. Hee was (as I meane to tel you) betweene these women deuising and counterfaiting all kinde of brauerie, reciting more pleasant and sweete wordes than euer Ouide wrote: but when they perceiued y^e their beautie had vanquished him cleane, and that hee was left without shame, they demanded of him their breakefast, and he therfore to haue the accustomed paiment. Whereupō hee being as colde in the purse as he was hote in stomacke, fell in suche a traunce, that he lost all the colour in his face: his young not able to talke, was faine to alleage vaine excuses. But they which in their science were well instructed, when they perceiued his infirmitie, they gaue him ouer for suche a one as hee was in deede. All this while I was breaking my fast with stalkes of colworts, & when I had done, like a diligent seruaunt, not seene of my maister, retourned home, meaning to sweep some part of the house that hadde most neede: but I coulde not finde wherewithal to do the deed. Wherefore not knowing what to doe, I began
to

The Spaniardes life.

to muse wherein I shold occupy my selfe,
& after study, I determined to tary untill
noone, that my master came, for perad-
venture hee woulde bring somethings
with him for vs to eat: wherefoze I
taried his comming, yett all for nothing,
for it was now two a clocke, and hee not
yet come: but because hunger oppressed
me sore, I came out and locked the doore,
laying the key where he had commanded,
with a lowe and a sorrowfull voice, my
handes thrust into my bosome, I began
to retourne to my former practise, in so
much, that hauing **G D D** before myne
eyes, and my tounge, in his name, I fell
to beg bread from doze to doze, and from
house to house, where I thought best to
speeue, hauing learned this trade in my
sucking yeeres, I meane with the blinde
maister, I became suche a scholler, that
although in that Citie there was small
charitie, nor the peare was not aboun-
dant, yett notwithstanding I had put my
affaires in suche good order, that before
the clocke stroke foure, I hadde layde a
pound of bread in my belly, and twice as
much in my bosome & fluxes. I returned
then

The Spaniardes life.

then homeward, and in my way went
thorow the streetes where they solde tri-
pes, wher I demanded a woman y^e was
there hir charitie, she gaue mee a piece of
a neats foote, and a fewe sodden tripes.

When I came home, my curteouse
master was within, hauing folded his
cloake & laid it vp. walking vp and down
the courte: and as soone as he did see me,
he came towards me, wherefore I feared
he would haue beaten me, because I had
staried so long, but it was not Gods will.
The first thing he demaunded mee, was,
wher I had bene? I answered, sir I was
here until it was two a clocke, and wher
I perceiued that your maistership came
not, I went forth into the citie, to recom-
mende my selfe to good people, whiche
haue giuen me thus much for gods sake,
and so shewd him the tripes whiche I
kept in the skirt of my coate, whereat he
made no angrie countenance, but sayde,
I haue la:ried for thee to dinner, and be-
cause I could not see thee come, I dined
alone, as for thee, thou hast done like an
honest boy, for it is better to beg than to
steale, as God helpe me I am of that o-
pinion.

The Spaniardes life.

pixion, one thing onely I will desire thee to do, that thou wilt not let them knowe that thou dost dwell with me, no, that I am thy maister: For that touched mine hono, and I do not doubt but that will be kept secret. for very fewe do knowe me in this citie, I would to God I had neuer come to it. Of that matter sir take you no care, sayde I, for no man will aske mee that question, I neede not therefore make such account to any of them. But why dost thou not fall nowe to thy vittels poore soule, if it bee Gods will wee shall soone bee out of this miserie: thou shalt vnderstande, that since I came in hither, I had neuer good houre, this house is surely built in an unhappye place, and certainly some houses are so vnluckye, that looke whosoener doeth dwell within them, hee shall bee sure to haue euill fortune. But I promise thee, that as soone as the moneth is ended, I will not dwell here, (no though they would giue it me rent free.) I fall downe then, and because hee shoulde not thinke mee a couetous glutton, I drew out my vittels, and there began to suppe honestly,

The Spaniardes life.

ly, biting my tripes with my bread handsomely, beholding dissemblingly my miserable maister, which hadde his eye alwayes vppon my skirte, beeing at that time my onely platter. God take suche compassion on mee, as I did then vppon him, for I had oftentimes endured, yea and daily felt that sorrow, which I knew tormented him: wherefore I imagined with my selfe, how I might well inuire him: but because he tolde me that he had dyed, I was afraide least hee would refuse the banket. Finally, I wished that the poore man wold haue eased his paine, by helpe of mine, and that he wold haue eaten with me for company, as hee had done the day before, especially, because y then I had better vittels, and more store, and moreouer that then my hunger was lesse: it pleased God to accomplishe my desire and his together, for when as I had begon my meate, as hee walked hee came neere to me, saying, Lazaro I promise thee thou hast the best grace in eating that euer I did see any man haue, for there is no man that seeth thee eate, but by seeing thee feede, shall haue appetite, although

The Spaniardes life.

although they bee not a hungred. Then
wold I say to my selfe, the hunger which
thou sustainest, causeth thee to thinke
mine so beawtifull: then I trusted I
mighte helpe him, seeing that hee had so
helped himselfe, and had opened mee the
way thereto: wherefore I said vnto him,
Sir, the good fooles make the woozke-
man good, this bread hath good taste, and
this neates fote is so well sodde, and so
cleanelly dressed, that it is able with the
sauor of it only, to entice any man to eate
of it. What is it a neates fote? yea sir:
now I promise thee it is the best mozell
in the worlde, there is no fesante that I
wold like so wel: I pray you sir proue of
it better & see how you like it. I deliuered
then vnto his naples the neates fote,
with two or three pierces of the whyttest
bzeade that I had, whereupon he sitteth
downe by mee, and there began to eate
like one that had great neede, gnawing
euery one of those litle bones, better than
any greyhound coulde haue done for life,
saying, this is a singular good meate, and
I to my selfe said, the sauce that thou ea-
test withall is better. By God I haue
eaten

At home in his
own countrey
he did eate no
thing els.

The Spaniardes life;

When it with as good a stomacke, as if I
hadde eaten nothing all this daye before:
then I with a low voice saide, God sende
me to live long, as sure as that is true: &
having ended his vittalles, he commaunded
me to reach him the pott of water, which
I gaue him full as full as I had brought
it from the Riuier, and it was a signe that
whence hee wanteth no water, that the
rest of his dinner was but small, we
dranke both, & went to bed, as the night
before, at that time well satisfied.

He had fasted
vntill then.

And now for to auoide long talke, we
continued after this sorte eighte or nine
dayes: and the poore Gentleman went e-
very day to braue it out in the streete, to
content him selfe with his accustomed
stately pace, and alwayes I poore Iazaro
was faine to be his purueior, I oftentimes
considered my disgraces, that escaping
from euill masters which I had, that b-
sed me euill, and seeking better, I happ-
ned to meete now with him, who not on-
ly did not mainteine mee, but whome I
was faine to mainteine, or els he to die: yet
for all that, I loued him wel, perceiuing
that he was able to do no more: yea and

The Spaniardes life.

I did pittie him, rather then hate him, for oftentimes with carying him home wherewith to passe the day, I felte griefe my selfe. One morning, the poore gentleman rose vp in his shirt, and went vp to the toppe of the house, to ease him selfe, and in the meane season to be out of the suspicion that I was in, I vnfolded his dublet and his hose, which were his bouldster, and there founte a little purse of veluet, which had a hundredth twinkels in it, but the deuill a peny, nor yet any signe that there had bene any there long time before. When did I say to my selfe, this man is poore, no man can giue that which hee hath not: but my couetous blind man, and my wretched priest, vnto whom God hath giuen so much goods, & one got with smoth hand, the other gained with his loose tounge, and yet they famished mee continually: there was good reason why I shoulde hate such people, so is the cause, why this mans case shoulde be lamented. God knoweth that when I met with any of his estate, being of like grauitie, pace, and countenance, howe I pitied them, thinking that they

The Spaniardes life.

they did endure that which I did see him daily suffer, whome I had rather serue for all his pouertie, than any of the other: for the causes aboue named. I did like him well, but only y^e me thought he was to presumptuous, where I often wished that seeing hee so plainly perceiued his owne pouertie, hee wold something haue hid his fatallicall pride. But as I thinke, it is a comon vsual rule amongst such as hee, which though they haue not a crosse in the worlde, nor a Denier, the cappe must needes stande in his olde place: but if **G D D** of his mercie doe not order the matter, all suche are like to dye of that vile disease. As I continued in suche estate, sustaining the life that I haue told you, my euill fortune which neuer ceased to pursue mee, woulde not yet suffer me to continue in that troublesome and shamefull kinde of life. For the matter happened thus: the Lords of the counsell made proclamation with sound of trumpet, because that that yeare there was scarcitie of cozne, all poore people being strangers, should forsake the Citie, vpon paine that hee which from thencefooth

I y.

should

The Spaniardes life.

Should be taken, should be punished with
shame: and so executing the law, within
three dayes after the proclamation, I sawe
a whole procession of poore folke whipped
through the foure principall streets,
which sight did so feare mee, that neuer
after I durst venture to beg. I he might
you have seene a strange diet we kept at
home, and the great silence that was
there, so that wee were constrained to
fast two or three dayes together, with-
out eating any morsell, or speaking a
worde: and as for me, the best shifte I
made, was amongst certaine poore wo-
men, which were spinners and cap knit-
ters, which saved my life, by reason of
the acquaintance I had with them, being
our next neighbours: for of that meat
they had, I should have a litle, wherewith
I did not so lament myne empty case, as
I did my poore maisters, which in eight
dayes did not eate one morsell, at the
least, wee were so long at home without
meate, but in dedde I know not whether
he went; nor what he did eate abroad,
yet notwithstanding, for all this, you
should see

The Spaniardes life.

Should see him come some times by the
streete, with a bodie as large as any gre-
hounds of good race : and for to maintain
his pooze honoꝝ, hee was wonte to take a
straw in his hand, wherof also there was
wante in our house, and standing with-
out the doze, would therewith picke those
which had little neede of picking, for any
thing that had sticke in them with ea-
ting. Lamenting still the unluckinesse of
that house, he would say, it greueth me, to
see how all our sorowes cometh of this
house, thou seest howe vncomfortable and
dark it is, and as long as we dwell here,
wee are like to bee thus tormented, there-
fore I woulde to God the moneth were
ended, that wee might depart out of it.
And as we continued in this afflicted &
smitting persecution, one day a rial en-
tered into the power of my master, I
know not by what good lucke and adue-
ture, wherewith hee came home so blo-
wing, as if he had brought with him the
whole treasure of Venice, and so with a
mery and lively countenance hee giueth
it to mee, saying, take here I azaro, nowe
God beginneth to open his hands, and to

Small neede to
picke his teeth
for any meate
he had eaten.

Six pence
English.

Belike some
Gambler had
Guen it him
and it was full
time.

The Spaniards life.

Smile vpon vs, goe quickly to the market place, and buy bread, wine and flesh, that wee may breake the diuels enuious eye: and furthermoze, bicause thou shalt haue good cause to reioyce, thou shalt vnderstand, that I haue hired an other house, therfoze, the moneth once ended, we will no longer abide in this miserable vnlucky house, cursed be it, and he that layde the first tile on it, for in euill time did I come in. By our lord all the time that I haue bene here, I neuer dranke drop of wine, noz a morsell of fleshe entred into my belly, noz yet haue I had any rest in it, suche is the sorrowe and miserie that belongeth to it, goe thy wayes and make speede, and let vs dine this daye like Carles. Then I tooke my riall and my pot, and with all haste, I began to goe by the streete, towards the market place, with ioy and mirth. But what profiteth all this, nowe that I am bozne vnder suche a planet that I can neuer enioye any pleasure long, without hyn-
dzaunce, (it appeareth so nowe) for as I went on my way, making my accounte howe I should bestow my money vpon
that

The Spaniardes life.

that which should be most profitable and best, geuing infinite thanks to God (that he had given my maister that money) vpon a suddaine I mighte see right before me a dead coarſe come down the ſtreete, accompanied with many priettes and other people: I leaned to the wall to giue them place, and the coarſe went by. I might see a woman whiche belike was the dead mans wife, ſolowing the beere, all in mourning weede, accompanied with other women, and ſhe weeping and lamenting, ſaid: O my husband & my lord, alas, whether doe they carie you: to the vnconſortable and ſad house, to the darke and ſorrowfull house, to the house where they neuer eate nor drinke? When I had heard her ſpeake theſe wordes, mee thought heauen and earth had met, and I ſaid, O vnfortunate wretch that I am; they carie this dead coarſe to our house: wherefoze I forſooke my way, and brake in betwene the people, and running downe the ſtreete as faſt as euer I could, I got into the house, and when I had entered therein, I locked the dooze with all haſte, calling out to my maiſter for

ſe iij.

helpe,

The Spaiardes life.

helpe, and embracing him, I desired
his ayde to keepe them out: whereof he
was somewhat amazed, thinking it had
henc some other matter, said, what is the
matter boye? what aileth thee to crie out
so? why dost thou lcke & doze with such
furie? I sir (thē I answered,) I pray you
helpe mee, for they bring vs in here a
dead corse. How so said he: I met & corse
aboue in the streete, and his wife folowed
him, saying, O my husband & my Lorde,
whether do they carie you: to the vncom-
fortable and sad house, to the darke and
sorowefull house, to the house where
they neuer eate nor drinke? Therefore
without doubt, sir they doe bring him in
here to you. Solve true ly when my ma-
ster heard this, although he had no great
cause to be iopfull, he laughed so earnest-
ly, that he stode a good while and coulde
not speake. In this meane season. I had
barred the doze, and for more suretie, had
layde my shoulders fast aginst it. The
prople passed by with their corse, and yet
still I was affraid, and durst not remoue,
least they would bring him in: and when
my maister had satisfied him selfe with
laughing

The Spaniards life.

laughing, though not with meate, hee
saide vnto me, truely Lazaro, thou hast
said the truth, & according to the widows
crying words, thou hast good reason to
suspecte that which thou hast sayde: but
wols, seeing that God hath dealt better
with vs than so, and that they are past
vs, open the doze, and goe to buy vs some
meate. Sir, then said I, let them firste
be all dast. In the end, my maister came
and opened the dooze against my will,
and it was as much as hee coulde doe. I
helde it so hard, being in great feare. When
he caused me to returne to my voyage, &
although wee dined well that daye, not-
withstanding, I founde no taste at all in
my meate, nor within three dayes after
I neuer recovered my owne coloure, and
as often as the remembraunce of these
vaine things came to my maisters mind,
hee was neuer able to stay him selfe from
laughing. After such sorte I continued a
time with this my thirde poore maister,
which was a Squire, seeking continual-
ly occasion to knowe his estate, and for
what cause he had come to dwell in this
Citie, for I perceiued that hee was a
straunger,

The Spaniards life.

Stranger long before, by reason that hee
had so little acquaintance with those of
the Citie. Finally, my wish was accom-
plished, and I understode that which I
coueted to knowe: for vpon a day, after
that hee had dyed reasonably well, hee
being at that time indifferently well sa-
tisfied, declared vnto mee his affaires,
in so much that hee certified mee, that he
was borne in Castilia the old, and howe
that hee had forsaken his countrey for
nothing in the worlde, but because hee
would not abase him self so much as put
off his cappe to a Gentleman his neigh-
bour: and hauing heard all his discourse,
I said vnto him, sir if he were such a one
as you say, and besides that, if he were
richer than you, it hadde beene but your
duetie to put off your cappe first to him,
for I beleeeue he would haue done the like
to you: in dede hee is a gentleman, and
richer than I, and he would always put
off his cap to the vttermost, when I did
put off mine, but seeing that oftentimes
mine was first off, reason would haue re-
quired, that his shold once haue bin first,
and so haue won of me by quicke hand,
the

The Spaniardes life.

the courtesse. As for me said I, I would
neuer haue had regard to that. Thou art
a childe saide he, and therefore thou knowest
not what doeth belong to honour,
which at this daye is the onely refuge of
such as bee honest: therefore thou shalt
vnderstand, that I am as thou seest a poore
esquire, and I make a vowe to God, that
if I should meete in y^e midst of the streete
an Earle, that would not put his cap alto-
gether off, as well as I do mine, the next
time I see him come, I will enter into
some house, as if I had some businesse
there, or else crosse ouer into an other
streete, if there be any betweene me and
him, so that I shal not neede to put of my
cappe to him, for a Gentleman is bound
to none but to God and the Prince, and
therefore it is reason that an honest man
shall be curious to esteeme his owne per-
sone. I doe remember that vpon a day, I
dishonoured, and hadde almost beaten a
crafts man where I was borne, because
that when so euer he met me, hee would
say Mantenga deos a vim, which is to
say, Sir, God maintaine your worship:
I tooke him once with the deede, and said,
how

The Spaniardes life.

holwe thes sꝑz clowe. , what meane
yeu by this , who hath so instructed you,
both it become you to say vnto mee, God
maintaine you, euen as I were one of the
cōmon sort : fꝛom thence forth he would
put off his cappe to me a farre off, and sa-
lute mee as hee ought . Why sir said I,
was not that kinde of salutation good e-
nough for any man , is it not sufficient,
for a man to saye , God maintaine your
maister ship : hee answered angerly, thou
must knowe in an euill houre , that that
kinde of salutiō is vled to a meane mā,
but no man ought to salute one of my e-
state after suche a sorte ; but allwayes hee
ought to say Bese les manos de virum,
which is as much to say, as I kisse your
woꝛshippes handes, or at the least Belos
senuor las manos I do kisse your handes,
if so be y he that saluteth me be a knighte
or a gentlemā: so from that day fozwarde
I coulde neuer abide to heare talke of
maintenance , nor suffer any man , vn-
lesse it wer: the king, to say vnto me, sir
God mainteine you. Alas wretch that I
am (said I to my selfe) that is the cause,
that hee hath so little care to mainteine
thee,

The Spaniards life.

that, so thou canst abide no manner with
it ther. Furthermore he saide, I am not so
poore, but that I haue in my rear grey
ground, where foundation of houses is well
and surely laide, which if they were built
up as they ought, sumptuous and great,
and by exchange placed in Yaladeli,
sixient mile on this side the place where
I was borne, they woulde bee moith no
lesse than a thousande Parauetia; and
I haue a Doucheuse, which if it were
built up as it is now faine, it wold yelde
me yearely at ouer two hundred pigeons;
beside other thinges whiche I will not
now speake of, all which thinges I for-
socke, for matters which touchen mine
honour, and came to this Citie, meaning
to serue one of the chiefe Nobles, but it
happened otherwyle with mee: I finde
in deed many Doctors & Prebendes be-
lynging to the Church, but they keepe
such modest orders, that all the world is
not able to bring them out of their pace:
many Gentlemen which are of the basest
sort, couet to haue me, but to serue suche
men is greate trouble, for from a man,
you must become a slokebag, or else they
will

Two & thirtie
Marcuedis, is
vi. pence En-
glish.

The Spaniardes life.

will streight bid you fare well, and moſte commonly, their wages is payde with long termes, ſome time your meate and drinke onely for your painefull ſervice. And when they meane to reſorme their conſcience, and to conſider the ſervants paine, there ſhall be deliuered out of the wardrobe, ſome cut dublet, or ſome thred bare cloake, or coate: but whē a man ſerveth a Noble man of the Order, hee ſhal better paſſe over his miſerie: but peradventure there is not in me abilitie to ſerve & to content ſuch men. By God if I had met with one of them, I thinke certainly, I ſhoulde quickly haue bene chiefe of his counſel, for I would haue done him a thouſand kind of ſervices. I could haue diſſembled as well as any other, yea & pleaſed him a thouſandfold, that it wold haue ben maruellous, I woulde haue ſmiled merily at his doings, although they had not bene the beſt in the worlde, I woulde neuer haue recited that which ſhould haue diſpleaſed him, no although it had bene much for his profit, moſt diligent about his perſon in word & deepe, neuer bearing my ſelfe about the well doing of things
that

The Spaniards life.

that shoulde neuer come to his sight, but sometimes haue chid such as serued, wher he might heare mee, that I might seeme to be careful, about that which touched him: and whensoever he shold happen to fall out with any of his men, then wold I put forth two or three smooth wordes to set him so:ward, which shold seeme to be in the fauor of the offender, affirming alwayes that which I thought he liked of: & on the contrarie side, a malicious mocker of the ignorant and rude sorte: furthermore, I wold alwayes demande and procure, how to know the liues of strangers, to account them vnto him, with other such tricks of like qualitie which at this day are vsed in greate palaces and courts, and which please the chiefe dwellers herein, which can not abide to see in their houses vertuous men, but do abhor, & esteeme them as nought, despising & calling them foles, & ignorant in the traffick of weightie affaires so that the Lord can not safely trust to their simple doings in weightie matters: therefore nowe a dayes, those that are subtil and craftie, get into fauour, and vse such meanes as
I would

The Spaniardes life.

I would haue bled, if fortune would haue
suffered me to haue found out such a noble
word. After this sorte my master lamented
his euill fortune, making relation
vnto me, what a valiant person hee was.
And being in such talke, there cometh in
to vs, a man, and an olde woman. the
man demanded the rent of the house, and
the woman the hier of the bed; and there
made streight wayes accountes; so that
he for two moneths, was endebted more
thā he was able to pay in a whole yeere.
I thinke his dettes came to xij. or xij. xij.
also of plate: he gaue the gentle answeres,
that he would goe to the market place to
change a duble peece of gold. Desiring the
returne againe in the euening, but his
departure was without retourne. When
euening came, they returned, but it was
to late, wherefore I tolde them that hee
was not yet come, the night being come
and he not, I was afraide to lye alone in
the house, therefore I went to my neigh-
bours, and there declared vnto them the
whole matter, and there lay all night.
The next day in the morning, the Cred-
itors came and enquired for my master.
(but

The Spaniardes life.

(but at the other dooze I pray you) vnto
 whome the women answered: theare is
 his seruāt, with the key of the dooze: they
 demanded me for him, I answered that
 I knewe not where hee was, for hee was
 not come home since hee wente abroad
 to change his golde, and that therefore I
 thought that hee was gone both from the
 and me with the exchange. When they
 heard me say so, they goe straight & seeke
 a Sergeant and a scriuener, and as soone
 as they had brought them thither, with-
 out delay they tooke the key and open the
 dooze in the presence of witnesse, and en-
 tred into sequester on my maisters goods
 that the debte mighte be payde them: but
 when they had sought the house all ouer,
 they founde it as emptie as I haue tolde
 you, wherfore they demāded of me where
 my maisters goods were conueyed, his
 Chestres, his Tapestrie, and his household
 stuffe. I answered, saying, I knowe no-
 thing of he hath sir: without doubt they
 haue bin taken away this night say they,
 and caried to some other place, therefore
 master Sergeant take holde on this boy,
 for he knoweth al: then the officer appro-

G

cheth

The Spaniardes life:

cheth vnto mee, and taking fast holde on the collar of my coate, saide: thou arte prisoner, vnlesse thou tell where thy master his goods are become: but as neuer no man had taken holde on mee in that place befoze sauing onely my blinde master, who neuer layde hande on mee so rudely, but gētly, that I might leade him that could not see, I was afrayd, & crying mercie, I promised to tell al that they demanded. Co to thē, say they, say on gods name what thou knowest and bee not afraide: the Scrinuener sitteth downe in haste, to write the Inuentorie, demanding what goods he had. I then began to declare what I knewe, saying, sir, the goods that hee hath, or at leaste that which he tolde me he had. was a piece of grounde, where foundation of houses is layde, and mo;eouer a Doue house, which is false, Wel said (say they) my boy, though that be little worth, it is sufficient to pay vs, In what place of the Citie standeth it, (say they) I answered, mary it standeth a good way hence in his owne countrey. The matter is then in a faire case (say they) but wher is his countrey: he told me
that

The Spaiardes life.

that he was bozne in Castilia the old: the
Sergeant, and the Scriuener, laughing
apace, sayde, this confession is sufficient
for you to recouer the debte (though it
were greater) the neighbours that were
there present, said, this childe is an inno-
cent, and he hath not dwelt long with the
Squire, therefore he knoweth no more of
him than you doe, hee hath ostentynies
come to vs, and we haue giuen him such
meate as we had, for Gods sake, and at
nighes gone in to lye with his master:
when they perceiued my innocencie, they
did set me at libertie. The Sergeant and
the Scriuener did demaund of the man &
the woman their fee, where vppon there
rose great contention, and they alleaged
that they were not bound to pay, seeing
that there was no execution made, espe-
cially, seeing there was not wherewith-
all: the officers alleaged, for that coming
thither, they had left vndone matters of
muche greater importaunce: finally, af-
ter many angrie wordes, a poore carrier
was loaden with the olde matteris,
which was the womans, scante halfe a
load to the bearer: then went they all

The Spaniardes life.

Due out together chydng, what became of them after, I knowe not, I beleue the poore mattris payde for all. And thus as I tel pou, I lost my third master when as I fully perceiued euill fortune wrought altogether against mee, in so muche that my affairs went so backward, that wher as maister & are wonte to bee forsaken of their seruants, it was not so with mee, but my master was faine to forsake me, yea and runne away in hast.

How Lazaro placeth him selfe to dwell with a Frier of the Abbey of Grace.



I was then constrained to seek the fourth master, which was a Frier of the Abbey of Grace, vnto whome the poore women which I haue tolde you off, preferred mee. They called hym cousin. This man was an enemy to the Quire, not liking well of his meales in the couent, a man lost for going abroad, desirous to see worldly affaires and visitations,

The Spaniardes life.

Sitacions, wherefoze I thinke that hee alone did teare more shoes than all the rest of his brethren: it was hee that gaue mee the first shoes that euer I wore in all my life, which lasted mee but eighte dayes, for he neuer leste trotting abroad: wherefoze for this, and for other small matters, which at this time I will not speake of, I was faine to forsake him.

How Lazaro placeth him

selfe with a Pardoner, and

*What things happened to him
in his Ieruyse.*



Yet by euil chace with the fifth maister, which was an utterer of Pardons, the discreetest merchant and the most shameless, that euer I did see, or any man els: for to dispatch away his pardons, hee had fine meanes and traffike, and daily imagined therefore most subtil inuentions. As soon as hee arriued to such towne, where he shold utter his pardons, he wold

City.

first

The Spaniardes life.

first present some gifte of small value or substance to the Priests and Curates of that place: sometimes a Cabadge lettis, a couple of Lemons or Oranges: otherwhiles an apuricocke, or else a couple of Beaches, or at the leaste, to euery one a faire Beare: and by that means he went about to make them his friends, that they mighte fauoure his affaires, and cause their parishioners to receiue the pardons: yea, and that they should thanke him, hee woulde alwayes bee informed before hee came, which were learned, & which not. When he came to those which he understood were learned, he woulde be sure neuer to speake worde of latin, for feare of stumbling: but vsed in suche places, a gentle kinde of Castilian Spanish, his tong alwayes at libertie: and contrariwise, whensoever hee was informed of the reuerend Domines (I meane such as are made priestes, more for money than for learning and good behauiour) to hear him speake amongst suche men, you would saye it were S. Thomas: for hee woulde then, two houres together talke latin, at least which seemed to bee, though
it

The Spaniardes life.

it was not. When that they receiued not his pardons friendly, hee sought meanes to make them to take them perforce: so that oftentimes, hee heretofore molested the parishioners, otherwhiles causing them to receiue them by subtile inuentions. And now we, seeing that it were too long to accounte all suche partes as I did see him vse. I will recite one, wherby he shewed right wel how sufficient he was. He had preached two or thre dayes, in a village, within the diocesse of the Archebishop of Toledo, without omitting any part of his accustomed diligence, and the people had not taken one pardon, nor no man (as farre as I coulde perceiue) was minded to receiue any: wherefoze he was in great rage. And as he imagined what hee had beste to doe, determined to inuite and byd all the people to come thither the next day, so to dispatche his pardons, and that night after supper, he and his Sergeant wente to playe for theyr breakfast, and as they plaied, they fell at such debate, that y^e one gaue euill wordes to the other: In so much, that at the last hee sayde to his Sergeant, that he was a

Pardoners
haue alwayes
with them a
sergeant to
take vp gages
in such houses
as refuse to pay
for their par-
dons at the time
appointed.

The Spaniardes life.

thief, and the Sergeant answered, saying that he was a falsifier, wherefore the commissarie my maister layde hande vpon a shorte pike that stode behinde the doore where they plaid, and the sergeant on y other side. put hand to his sword which hong by his side, so that with the grcate noyse y we made, our host & our neighbours came in, and went between them: then they beeing soe angrie, sought all meanes to come together, that the one might kill the other: but the house was so full of people, that they coulde by no meanes come nee to one another, wherefore they neuer leste, geuing one another iniurious woordes, in so muche that the Sergeant said to my maister, that he was a falsifier, and that the Pardons which hee preached of daily, were mosse false. To be bricfe, when the people perceived that they could by no meanes pacifie them, they determined to carie the Sergeant away to an other lodging, and my maister remained still there in great rage. Whereupon our host, with his neighbours. desired him hartily that hee wou'de forget his anger, and goe to bed:
and

The Spaniardes life.

and so then we wēt all to slape. As sone
as day appeared in the morning, my mas-
ter went to the Church and caused them
there to ring to Masse, & to Sermon, that
he might dispatch his Wardons. then the
people assembled together, murmuring
amongst them selues at the Wardons,
saying that they were false and nothing
worth, seeing that the Sergeant himselfe
had affirmed the same: So that be fore y
time, they having small minde to receiue
any, they then vtterly abhorred them.
Master comissarie mounteth vp into the
pulpit, and beginneth his sermon, encou-
raging the people not to forsake suche
great goodnesse and indolgence, as the
holy pardon contained: and being in the
midst of his sermon, the sergrant cometh
in at the Church doore, and when that he
hadde ended his prayers, he rose vp sud-
denly, and with a loude voyce discretely
sayde, ye honest & godly preple, giue eare
that I may tell you a worde or two, and
then heare whome yee will. I am come
hither in the company of this crowe kee-
per which nowe preacheth, who hath
deceued me, promising, that if I would
helpe

The Spaniards life.

helpe him in his affaires, I shoulde haue
 halt the gaines. But now perceiuing the
 damage that my conscience shold receiue,
 and besides that, the losse of your goods,
 I do earnestly repent that which I haue
 done, and I will tel you plainly, that the
 paydons which he hath brought, are false:
 therefore yee ought not to belceue him,
 nor yet take any one of them. As for me,
 I will neither bee partaker with him,
 one waye or other, therefore from this
 time forwarde, I doe forsake the rodde of
 them, which I nowe cast to the ground:
 for if hereafter hee bee punished for his
 falshood, you may be witnesse with mee
 that I am no doer with him herein, nor
 yet helpe him, but doe rather bewray vnto
 you his craft and falshood: and when
 he had saide all, certaine men of honour
 which were there, would needs haue cast
 him out of the Church, to auoide slander:
 but my master did forbid them so to doe,
 commanding them all vppon payne of
 excommunication, to suffer him to saye
 all that euer hee coulde, and hee him selfe
 kept silence whyles that the Sergeants
 declared al that which I haue rehearsed:

and

All Sergeants
 in Spaine doe
 beare a white
 rod in their
 handes, higher
 than theselues
 by halfe a foote
 as big as a mans
 finger.

They were no
 Lords, euery
 man is of ho-
 nor there.

The Spaniardes life.

and as soon as hee helde his tounge, my master demanding him whether he wold say any more: y^e sergeant answered, there may bee much more saide of thee, and of thy falshoode, but at this time this is sufficient. Then my master committarie falling downe vpon his knees in the pulpit, holding vp his hands, his eyes looking vp to heauen sayde these words: O **Lord God**, from whom nothing is hid, vnto whome all things are manifest, and vnto whome nothing is vnpossible, who can do all things, thou knowest the truth, and how vniustly I am accused and slandered: as for me (O lord) I forgiue him, that thou mayst forgiue me. Haue no regard to him that knoweth not what he doeth nor saith: notwithstanding, O **Lord**, I do beseech thee: & through iustice I demaunde of thee, that thou wilt not dissemble this iniurie which is done vnto thee, peradventure, some that are heere present, were minded to take this diuine pardon, which now will not, giuing place and credite to the wicked mans words: and because this matter is so hurtfull to Christian neighbours, I beseech

The Spaniardes life.

beseech thee once againe good Lorde, that thou wilt not dissemble it, but immediately, that it may please thee to shewe here a miracle, and that it may be thus : If it be true that this man saith, that is, that the Parsons which I haue heere are false, that this pulpit maye then sinke with mee, as farre as the depth of Cuern men vnder the grounde, that neither it nor I may neuer bee scene againe. And on the other side, if that bee true which I say, that he being perswaded by the deuill, hath saide these words falsly and vnruly, only to depriue the people of suche goodnesse, that then it maye also please thee to punish him, that his malicious peruersitie may bee knowen to all men. My deuout maister had scant ended his prayers, but that the poore Sergeant fell in a traunce, giuing him selfe suche a blowe against the ground, that all the Church sounded of it, stretching out his body with great abundance of foame at his mouth, making strange visages, and striking the ground both with hande and foote, tumbling vp and downe from one side to an other : In so muche that the
ncise

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The Spaniardes life.

noyse which y people made, was so great, that one could not heare another. Some were amazed and so;e afraid, saying God be his helpe, and other saide, hee hath that which hee hath deserued, seeing that he durst affirme such falshood. Finally some of those that were there, which to my iudgement were not without great feare, came nere to hold fast his hands, where-with hee stroake all suche as came nere him. Others helde him faste by the feete, for there was neuer false moyle in the world that euer kicked so fast: and so they held him a good while. Ther were about xv. men vpon him, and he gaue them all their hands full: so that if they had forgotten their businesse, he woulde haue giuen some of them euerywhart the teeth. All this while my maister was in the pulpit vpon his knees, holding his handes together still, his eyes bent towards heauen, transported into such diuine extasie, y all the noyse and rumour which was in the Church, was not sufficient to bring him out of his diuine contemperation. Certain honest men that were there, came vnto him, and awaked him by so;e of crying, desiring

The Spanirdes life.

desiring that it might please him to succour the poore man which was a dying, and that he should not regard that which had passed, nor yet his euill wordes, seeing that now hee had receiued punishment therefore, but that if he could helpe him any way howe to escape that perill and danger that he was in, that he wold so doe for Gods sake: and as for them, they plainly perceiued that hee was in fault, and so likewise that they knew his truth and goodnesse, seeing that at his petition, the Lorde straightwayes for reuengement, sent him punishment. Then my master the commistarie, like one that had awaked out of a gracious sleape, beholdeth them, & also the patient, with all those that were about him, and saide: yee honest men, yee ought not to praye for one, on whome God hath so manifestly shewed his power, but seeing that hee hath comanded that we shall not render euill for euill, but rather that wee shall pardon all iniuries, to bee able to make supplication vnto him, that we may fulfil that which he comanded vs. And now that his maiestie (being by him offended)

The Spaniardes life.

ded) may forgive him, so to shewe miracle of true sayth, let vs goe altogether with humble hart, & pray to him. Wherefore hee came downe out of the pulpit, commaunding suche as were there present, most deuoutly to pray to our Lord, that it mighte please him, through his grace, to pardon the sinner, and to restore him to his health & bodily senses againe: And moreover, if his diuine maiestie had permitted any euill spirite to enter into him for his offences, that it might please him like wyse, to drive it out againe. Incontinentlye they fell all vppon their knees, before the altar, and with the priestes they beganne to sing with lowe voyce, the letany, & the commisseration matter, hauing song ouer him, came with the crosse and holy water, holding vp his handes, and his eyes bent to wards heauen, that one might see nothing of them but a little white, began his prayer no lesse deuout than long, wherewith hee made those that were there present to weepe, as they were wonte to doe at the sermons of the passion, and hee as a deuout preacher, desired almightie

God

The Spaiardes life.

God (seeing that he desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that hee shall repent and liue) to pardon, forgive and restore to life, that poore sinner which was led by the deuill, overcome with death and sinne, that he might repent and confesse his sinnes: when hee had so done, he sent for one of the pardons, and laide it vpon his head, whereupon immediatly the poore Sergeant began to amende and by little and little to retourne to him selfe. And as soone as he had recovered his senses, he kneleth down at maister commissaries feete, & there demanded pardon, confessing how that he had said and done all those things, by the mouth and instruction of the deuill, as well to giue him griefe, and to be reuenged of him, as also because the deuill was sozie to see the goodnesse which people receiued by taking the holy pardons. My master did then forgive him, and friendship was made betweene them. Then was there such a greates haste to take the pardons, that almoste no creature liuing in that towne, but tooke one, the husbände, and the wife, sonnes and daughters, menne servants

The Spaniardes life.

seruantes and maid seruants, there was none but would haue one. This newes was spred abroad throught al the towne there about, so that we then arriued thither it was not needefull to preache, nor yet to goe to the Church to dispatche the Pardons: for the people came so faste to our lodging for them, as if they had bene peares that had bene giuen them for nothing: in so muche that my maister dispatched and vttered away ten or twelue thousand pardons in ten or twelue little villages thereabouts, without preaching one sermon. And as for my part, I will confesse my ignorance, for when this their inuention was tried, I was in a gret maruell to see such a straunge case, & I thought the matter had bin so in deed, as many other did: yet notwithstanding, when I perceiued once the Jestling and scoffing that my maister & the Sergeant would make at the matter by the waye, I vnderstood plaineely, that all that counterfaite shew was inuented by my masters subtile industrious arte. And although I was of tender yeres, yet I toke great pleasure to consider their doings.

¶

and

The Spaniardes life.

and would say to my selfe: How many are there suche as these that deceiue the simple people. To conclude, I continued with this fiste maister neere foure monethes, during which time I suffered much sorrowe.

How Lazaro dwelleth with a Chaplaine, and what happened to him in his service.



Afterward I entred into the seruice of a painter of Drummes, vnto whome I tempered colours, with whome I suffered a thousand euils, and as I was the of good bignesse, entring one daye into the great Church, one of the Chaplaines receiued me for his owne, and gaue mee in gouernment an Asse, with foure great tankardes, and a whippe, to sell water vp and downe the Citie, and this was the first staire I climbed vp, to come to attaine

The Spaniardes life.

faine vnto good life : for my mouth had then the measure. I deliuered vp daily to my master in game thirtie Mareuedis, & on euery Saturday I laboured for my selfe, and all the weeke also whatsoeuer I coulde earne ouer thirtie Mareuedis a day, was mine owne. This office was so good, that at foure yeeres ende I had spared with my wages and my gaines, so muche as bought mee apparell honestly, with old stufte, whereof I bought an old black fustian dublet, and a coate threedbare with gathered sleeves and whol befoze, and a cloake that had bene of selzado, and a sworde of the olde making one of y^e first of Cuellar. And perceiuing my selfe then in apparell like an honest man, I desired my master to take his horse againe, and that I would no moze follow that office.

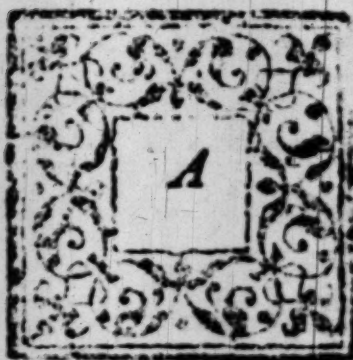
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¶

How

They do eat water vp and downe the citle to sell vpon Asses, with foure & sometimes sixe ransards: for they haue no water but from the riuer.

The Spaniardes life.
 Howe Lazaro dwelleth
 with a Sergeant, and what
 happened to him in his seruice.



A man may
 leape in Spaine
 the hands of
 the officers of
 Iustice if they
 can flee into
 some church so
 as not their
 treasure of re-
 ligion.

After that I had taken
 my leaue of y^e chaplain
 I did place my selfe wth
 a sergeant, to be a me-
 ber of Iustice: but I
 dwelled fewe dayes wth
 him, for in short time I
 perceiued that it was a dangerous office,
 especially when y^e certain tranlatellours,
 which retired into a Church, chased my
 master & me maruellously with stones &
 stauces: and at that present time my ma-
 ster (whom I taried for) was euil had'ed
 but they could neuer ouertake mee: yet
 for al that I did forswear the office. And
 as I imagined what kinde of life I had
 best leade, y^e I might preuide some thing
 against mine olde age. God by his grace
 lightned my minde to finde out the profit-
 able way: So that through the fauour
 which I had of my friends and maisters,
 all the sorrowes, which before that time
 I had sustained, were recompenced with
 an

30

The Spaniardes life.

an office royall, which I obtained: the which I pretended, because y at this day there is no account but of them that haue wherewithall. So that at this present, I lue in mine office, & exercise it to Gods seruice & yours. Sir, it is so that I haue the charge to cry the wines that are sold in this citie, and to make inquirance, with open crye, for things that haue bene losse, and when any suffer persecution by iustice, I do accompanie them, declaring with loud voyce their offence. I am (in plain language) a comon cryer. Sir matters haue so well gone forward with me, & I haue vsed my selfe so well, that in manner all things belonging to the office, passe through my hands. In so much, that loke whosoever within this citie doth brooch wine, or sell any things, and y Lazarillo de Tormes bee not presente, they make accounte neuer to get gaine. In this meane time, master Archdeacon of saint Saluador your friend and seruant at commaundement, hauing knowledge of my person and habilitie, especially since I had cryed his wyne, went about to marry me with his mayd.

W. iij.

And

The Cryers in Spaine doe sell all kinde of stuffe and whe-
re is whipe
through the
citie goeth be-
fore him de-
claring with
loude voyce
what he hath
done.

The Spaniards lite.

And after that I had considered, that
with hauing to doe with such a man as
master Archdece was, I cold not receiue
but honestie and goodnesse, I determi-
ned to doe it, so that I tooke her to wife.
whereof hitherto I doe not repente: for
besides that shee is honest, and a diligent
wench, I finde great fauour and helpe at
master Archdece's hand, for euery yere
from one time to an other, he giueth her
as good as a load of wheat, and against
Christmas or Easter, some good morzell
of fleshe, a couple or two of loaues, and
such old hese as he leaueth: and he caused
vs to hier a little house neere his dwel-
ling: on euery sonday & holy day we dined
(most comonly) in his owne house. But
euill tongues which neuer cease, woulde
not suffer vs to liue in peace, they woulde
say this and that, and that they did see my
wife goe and make his bed, and dresse his
meate. But God helpe them better than
they say truthe. For besides that shee is a
woman that deeth not delighte in suche
game, master Archdeacon hath promised
me that whiche I truste hee will fulfill.
For vpon a time in her presence, he saide
at

The Spaniardes life.

at large vnto me, Lazaro de Tormes, he
that will haue regarde to euill tongues,
shall neuer get profite. I say thus much
vnto thee, I can neuer maruell, though
some men murmur to see thy wife come
in an out of my house, which doing, I
promise thee, shall not otherwise redcund
but to thy great honestie and hers. There-
fore let people haue their wordes, haue
thou onely regarde to that which shall be
for thy profite. I answered him, saying,
My2, I haue determined to ioyne my
selfe with those that are good, but truth
it is, that certaine of my friendes haue
warned me of this, yea & moreouer they
haue twice or thrice certified mee wth
other, that before she was married to mee
shee had two or three children, be it spokē
vnder your maiesties correction,
seeing that shee is present. My wife be-
gan then to giue such othes, that I thou-
ght the house woulde haue suncke wth
vs all, and then beganne to weepe, cur-
sing the time that euer she married mee,
in so much that I wished my selfe dead
when that I let scape that worde out of
my mouth. But I on the one side, and

The Spaniardes life. •

my maister on another, said so much, that she lefte weeping: and I did sweare vnto her, that as long as I liues, I would neuer againe vse the like talke: and how that I reioyced and was well contente, that she shou'd come in and out both day and night, seeing that her honestie and faithfulnessse was so well knowne. So the we remained al thre with one accord vntill this day, and neuer no man heard vs sithence reason of that matter. And from that time forwarde, whensoever I could happen to heare any man talk of this, I would straight break off his matter, and saye vnto him, looke if thou bee my friende, speake nothing that shall grieue me, for I do not take him for my friende that caused me to sorowe, especially that goeth about to sowe discord betwene mee and my wife, which I loue better than any thing in this world, considering howe that by her meanes, God hath done more for mee, than I haue deserved, and I dare sweare by the holy sacrament, that shee is as honest a woman as any that dwelleth within the foure gates of Toledo: and hee that sayeth the contrarie,

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The Spaniardes life:

contrarie, I will bestowe my life upon
him. So from thence forwarde, they ne-
uer durst move any such matter unto
me, & I had peace alwayes in my house.
This was the same yere that our victo-
rious Emperour entred into this noble
cittie of To'edo, wher his court was kept
with great feastes and triumphes, as
your mastership hath heard: finally,
it was then that I was in my
prosperitie, and in my
chiefest time of
good adven-
ture.

Lazaro



The Spaniardes life.

Laziro declareth the friendship
that certain high Duchinen shew-
ed him, and what hapned be-
twene them.



Being now in the toppe
of my prosperitie, ha-
ving fortune my friend,
I neuer went without a
bottle of the beste wine
in the citie, of the verte
same I caried about me (being a commo
crier) to giue a taste to as many as were
willing to buy: by vertue of whiche
wine I purchased so many gentlemen
my friends, as well inhabitants there
as strangers, that where so euer I came,
the doore shoulde streight bee opened
for mee. And I was so fauoured euerie
where, that if I had chanced to haue
slayne a man, or to commit some hapnous
offence, all the worlde woulde streight-
wayes haue bene on my side, being assu-
red that those gentlemen being the kings
gude woulde sufficiently both succour &
help mee. Therefore when so euer we
met,

The Spanirdes life.

met, I neuer suffered them to departe
ozimouthed away, but did carry the with
mee to the best wine I hadde broched in
the citie, where oftentimes we went in
vpon our own fete, and came out either
without any, or at the least with strange
fete.

And that which I liked best of all,
was that all the time I kept them com-
pany, the diuel a blanke Lazaro de For-
mes did pay, nor that they would consent
he should pay: for whensceuer I did put
my hande to my purse (for manners sake
only) they would take it in euil part, and
beholding me angerly, would say, Nitte
Nitte, Asticot lanz, and so reprehending
me, wold alleage, that where they wer in
company no man shoulde pay a blanke:
wherefore I was greatly in loue with
these people: and it was not only that ser-
ued our turne, but as often as we mette
we should haue also slices of bacō, pieces
of legges of mutton sod in that pleasant
wine, with all manner of fine spice, and
therewith they wold fill both my bosome
and skirts, enough for my wife and mee
a whole weeke. The worlde beeing then
so

The Spaniardes life.

so plentifull I would call to remembrance
the hungrie fits I had sustained in times
past, praying the Lorde, and giuing him
thanks that the world now at the length
was so well changed. But as the pro-
uerbe saith: He that will do good to thee,
will either go his way, or die. And so it
happened to me, the court remouing as
it is wont to doe, and my friendes fol-
lowing it, at their departing I was desi-
red by them that I would beare them
company, promising to shewe me much
friendship and fauour. But remembz ing
the olde prouerbe: Better is the euill
knowne, than the good which is yet to
knowe, thanking them for their good
will, and desiring their fauour, after ma-
ny sighes and sorrowfull embracings, I
tooke my leaue, and they departed. And
truly had I bene unmarried, I would ne-
uer haue so forsaken their company, for
indeede they were people, muche of my
nature and disposition. And it was a gra-
tious, and not a phantasticall nor a pre-
sumptuous life they did leade. A man
should neuer see the scrupulous nor nice
to enter into a fauerne, but would go in
boldly

The Spaniards life.

boldely (yea with cappe in hande) if the
 wyne for goodnesse deserved so muche.
 They were plaine men, full of al honestie
 and gentle curtesie, and so well prou-
 ided at all times, that I woulde to God
 when I am athurst, I might alwayes
 meete with such men. Notwithstanding
 the loue which I bare to my wyfe and to
 my coutry (which now I take for mine
 owne native, because men so commonly
 say, whence art thou honest man) caused
 me to stay at home. So I continued euer
 since in this citie, leading a solitarie life
 for the losse of my friendes and courtly
 life although that I was well known
 of all the citizens. Afterwardes I liued
 very well at mine owne ease, with in-
 crease of icy and kinred, for the birth of
 a trim little daughter, which within a
 little while after my wyfe broughte
 forth. Wherat I hauing some euill sus-
 pitiō, she did swear al othes, that I was
 the father, and that shee was mine. I con-
 tinued in this estate, untill that fortune
 thought that she had nowe giuen me too
 much ease, and that shee thought it rea-
 son for her to turne backe and shewe mee
 againe

The Spaniardes life.

agaïne her seuer and cruell visage, to
temper those fewe yeeres which I passed
at ease, with as muche moze trauell and
deadly sorrowe, which now I shoulde
endure. (O great God) who is able to
write so vnfortunate & miserable a
case, but must let the Inkborne
reste and put the penne to
his eyes:

¶ To the Reader.

THough truth do purchase hate,
and glosing beare the bell:
Yet is the man to be belikte
that truest tale doth tell,
Without respect of place,
of countrie, or of kinde:
For so the law of writing doth
eche honest writer binde:
Then Lazaro deserves
no blame, but praise to gaine,
That plainly pens the Spaniards prank
and how they live in Spaine.
He setteth them out to shewe
for all the world to see,

Tha

That Spaine when all is done, is Spaine
and what those gallants be.
The writer meant but well,
and he that tooke the paine,
To turne it to our mother tongue,
the readers thanks would gaine
For all his former toyle,
in penning of the booke,
The suite is small, allow him that,
that hath her on to looke.
Though small the volume be,
the value may be great:
Wherefore to yeeld him thy good will
let this my muse entreat:
Let Roulande haue reward
for this his taken paine:
And so thou (reader) mayest perhaps
the like hereafter gaine.

G. Turbeuile Gent.

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